

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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USC Coach Lou Holtz



Steve Spurrier

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2004

Rare blood infection affects war wounded

Report cites spike in cases of U.S. troops with blood disease

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DOD launches new program to get the
word to deployed GIs: We're with you

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LOS ANGELES TIMES/LATWP
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

HIV drug problem: India's Hetero Drugs is withdrawing six of its generic versions of antiretroviral drugs from the World Health Organization's list of approved HIV medicines, saying it is not certain they are biologically the same as the patented drugs.

Hetero decided to withdraw the drugs — the only prequalified retrovirals it makes — after a WHO inspection, the agency said Friday.

The company has told WHO that the laboratories it was using to conduct the bioequivalence tests, which should prove that their drugs are the same as the patented medicines, "were not compatible with the current standards" and that there were "deficiencies in the data submitted," the agency said.

Sharon open to peace talks: Israel signaled flexibility and openness toward the emerging new Palestinian leadership Friday, with a top adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon saying peace talks could resume if the Palestinians showed some good will.

The adviser, Raanan Gissin, spoke a day after Sharon indicated he is dropping a key demand for resuming peace talks — a Palestinian crackdown on militant groups. Sharon said that while he still wants the armed groups dismantled at some point, he now considers Palestinian efforts to stop incitement against Israel a sufficient first step.

"Israel is ready to move forward," Gissin said. "The first business is stop the industry of hatred. ... It doesn't require troops. Then, gradually, we can move toward security coordination."

Palestinians have refused to confront the militants, saying they fear civil war.

Accused Danish lawmaker: A former Copenhagen lawmaker suspected of sexually abusing a teenager said in interviews published Friday that he was not ashamed of his actions, claiming the 13-year-old boy told him he was old enough to have sexual relations.

Flemming Oppfeldt, who was released from custody Thursday after a month in jail, told the Ekstra Bladet and B.T. daily tabloids that he was "sorry that an underage [boy] has been involved in this."

Oppfeldt claimed the teenager he is suspected of sexually abusing told him he was 15 — the legal age of consent in Denmark.

But prosecutors, and the boy's family, contend the unidentified boy was just 13.

Belgian's threats: A Belgian convert to Islam has confessed to sending death threats to a senator for criticizing fundamental Muslims, officials said Friday.

The prosecutor's office said there were no indications the 38-year-old suspect, who was arrested earlier Friday, had been in contact with extremist groups before making his threats.

Senator Mimount Bousakka, 32, whose parents emigrated to Belgium from Morocco, went into hiding early this week after contacting police about receiving a threatening telephone call. She has criticized forced marriages, the place of Muslim women in society and the role of men within the family.

Chechen school bombing: Authorities have detained two residents of the southern province of Ingushetia on suspicion of being linked to terrorists who held more than 1,000 people hostage in a school in September, officials said Thursday.

Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev has claimed responsibility for the school seizure, which ended in gunfire and explosions, killing more than 330 hostages.

Nilek Shepel, Russia's deputy prosecutor general and head of the investigation



Disney labor dispute: Walt Disney World worker Nylbie Pizani drops her ballot in the ballot box in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Thursday. Members of Walt Disney World's largest union, representing 40 percent of the resort's 51,000-person work force, approved a three-year contract proposal as the current contract was set to expire.

into the Sept. 1-3 school seizure in Beslan in North Ossetia, said a 16-year-old resident of neighboring Ingushetia has been detained on charges of possible links to the terrorists.

Shepel would not elaborate, but the daily *Gazeta* identified the suspect as Marina Korigova, a college student, and said she has been in custody for two weeks.

War on terrorism

Military review tribunal: An alleged member of a group with purported ties to the al-Qaida terror network was among four prisoners who appeared Thursday before U.S. military review tribunals in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The 31-year-old man was accused of receiving weapons training in Afghanistan in 2001, said Navy Lt. Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

The man allegedly belonged to a Uighur group linked to al-Qaida and the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, another organization the United States says supports terrorism.

Nation

Bonfire tragedy: Before it was set to be dedicated with speeches and formality, the memorial built to honor the victims of Texas A&M University's deadly bombing collapse was the site of a more intimate and silent ceremony.

Hundreds gathered at 2:42 a.m. Thursday — the exact time of the collapse — on the grassy field where 12 Aggies were killed and 27 others were injured five years ago.

Sex toy lawsuit: Renee Koutsouradis was on a Delta Air Lines jet awaiting takeoff from Dallas when her name was called over the loudspeaker and she was pulled from the plane.

Something was buzzing in her luggage. When taken to the taxiway, she told a Delta security agent that the buzzing was likely coming from a sex toy she and her husband had just bought during their trip to Las Vegas.

Koutsouradis, 38, says she was then ordered to remove the toy, hold it up and remove its batteries in full view of some other

passengers on her flight. She claims a baggage handler then licked his lips and made sexually inappropriate comments as other Delta employees laughed.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments Friday in Jacksonville, Fla., in the lawsuit Koutsouradis filed against Delta over the February 2002 incident.

Bay of Pigs lawsuit: A woman who sued the Cuban government over the death of her father during the Bay of Pigs invasion was awarded \$86.5 million on Thursday by a Miami-Dade circuit court judge.

Thomas Willard "Pete" Ray, an Alabama Air National Guard pilot on a mission for the CIA, was executed in Cuba in April 1961. His body was kept in a Havana morgue for 18 years before the Cuban government sent it home.

Ray's daughter, Janet Ray Weininger, filed her wrongful death suit against Cuba by using a federal law that allows victims of terrorism to collect damages from states that sponsor it.

GOP backs Specter: Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday unanimously endorsed Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., as the committee's new chairman, overriding complaints from conservative activists that he might try to block anti-abortion nominees to the Supreme Court.

Specter got his colleagues' blessing after he drafted a statement pledging prompt hearings and votes on President Bush's judicial nominees.

WWII vet charged: Police are recommending a criminal charge against a World War II veteran who allegedly backed a van over his friend and killed him during a Veterans Day parade.

William Hammond, captain of the parade's color guard, was preparing to march with fellow veterans Nov. 11 when he was struck by a van driven by Joseph Davis, 80, Hammond, also 80 and a World War II veteran, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police are seeking a charge of motor vehicle homicide by neglect, which carries a maximum sentence of 2½ years in jail.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, Nov. 18, 2004, at least 1,216 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 945 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 73 deaths. Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,078 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count.

That includes at least 836 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military officials in Fallujah, Iraq:

■ A Marine was killed Thursday in an attack in Fallujah.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Marine Sgt. Christopher T. Hefflin, 26, Paducah, Ky.; killed Tuesday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Louis W. Qualls, 20, Temple, Texas; killed Tuesday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to the Marine Corps Reserves 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Grand Prairie, Texas.

Forces storm mosque, hospital

At least 15 insurgents killed in Friday raids

BY TINI TRAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces, backed by U.S. soldiers, stormed one of the major Sunni Muslim mosques in Baghdad after Friday prayers, opening fire and killing at least three people, witnesses said. In the battle for control of Mosul, Iraqi forces raided several areas overnight, killing 15 insurgents, Iraqi and U.S. military officials said.

At least 13 other insurgents were captured in Mosul, authorities said.

About 40 people were arrested at the Abu Hanifa mosque in the capital's northwest Azamiyah neighborhood, said the witnesses, who were members of the congregation. Another five people were wounded.

It appeared the raid at Abu Hanifa mosque, long associated with anti-American activity, was part of the crackdown on Sunni clerical militias launched in parallel with military operations against the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

On Thursday, the Iraqi government warned that Islamic clerics who incite violence will be considered as "participating in terrorism."

A number of them already have been arrested, including several members of the Sunni clerical Association of Muslim Scholars, which spoke out against the U.S.-led offensive against Fallujah.

"The government is determined to pursue those who incite acts of violence. A number of mosques' clerics who have publicly called for taking the path of violence have been arrested and will be legally tried," said Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's spokesman, Sami al-Naqeb.

U.S. troops also raided a Sunni Muslim mosque in Qaim, near the Syrian border, a cleric said, calling it retaliation for opposition to the Fallujah offensive. Imam Maudafer Abdul Wahab said his mosque was gathering food and supplies to send to Fallujah, and U.S. troops took about \$2,000 meant for repair of his mosque.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, a suicide car bomber rammed into a police patrol, killing one policeman and injuring as many as 10 other people, including policemen, authorities said.

At the Abu Hanifa mosque, U.S. troops were seen securing the outer perimeter and sealing it off. Some American soldiers also were seen inside the compound.

Witnesses heard explosions coming from inside the mosque, apparently from stun grenades. Insults and threats of the imam books, including a Quran, and a computer were found scattered on the floor, and the furniture was turned upside down.



A U.S. soldier stands guard next to destroyed Iraqi police car in Baghdad after a suicide car bomber rammed into a police patrol, killing one policeman and injuring at least four other people on Friday.

At least 10 U.S. armored vehicles were parked at the mosque, along with two vehicles carrying about 40 Iraqi National Guards, witnesses said.

Abu Hanifa mosque has long been associated with anti-American agitation. Saddam Hussein was seen in the area as the city fell to American forces in April 2003, and U.S. Marines battled Saddam loyalists around the mosque on April 10, 2003, the day after the ousted ruler's statue was hauled down in Firdous Square.

In western Mosul, Iraqi National Guard and a special police force raided several areas Thursday night, killing 15 insurgents and capturing 10 others, Deputy Gov. Khassro Ghoussan said.

Three policemen also were killed Thursday when masked gunmen set up a checkpoint in eastern Mosul and shot them when they displayed identification, Gouran said.

A car bomb attack on a U.S. patrol in the northeastern Sukar neighborhood of Mosul injured one U.S. soldier, the military said.

A raid overnight at a hospital allegedly used by insurgents in Mosul — Iraq's third-largest city — led to the arrests of three suspected terrorists, the military said.

Iraqi commanders with the Ministry of the

Interior's Special Police Force, backed by U.S. troops, raided the al-Zaharawi hospital after getting information that insurgents were treating their wounded there, said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings with Task Force Olympia.

Pictures were taken in the mosque of 23 bodies believed to have been those of terrorists, Hastings said.

U.S. and Iraqi forces began a major military operation Tuesday to wrest control of Mosul after gunmen last week attacked police stations, bridges and political offices in apparent support of Fallujah guerrillas.

On Friday, three of the city's five bridges were reopened to traffic and most of the city remained calm, though U.S. forces came under some "indirect fire" that caused no injuries, Hastings said.

During a routine patrol, U.S. forces also found burned bullet materials inside a Mosul warehouse after a tip by an Iraqi security officer. Efforts are under way to replace the materials for the January elections.

Iraq is slated to hold national elections by Jan. 31 to elect a 275-member assembly in what is expected to be a major step toward building democracy.

In Fallujah, battles flared as troops hunted holdout insurgents, and one U.S. Marine and one Iraqi soldier were killed, U.S. officials said.

Analysts dispute general's assessment of broken insurgency in Fallujah

BY RICHARD WHITTLE

The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — Retaking Fallujah has "broken the back of the insurgency," the U.S. commander in Iraq said Thursday — an assessment far more optimistic than other analysts' views and even a Marine Corps intelligence report.

Lt. Gen. John Sattler, the top U.S. Marine Corps commander in Iraq, said the 11-day operation had destroyed the insurgents' base and would "make it very hard for them to operate" elsewhere in Iraq.

"We feel right now that we have, as I mentioned, broken the back of the insurgency and we have taken away this safe haven,"

Sattler told Pentagon reporters in a video teleconference from Fallujah.

Some analysts flatly disagreed.

"I see absolutely no chance that's true," said Anthony Cordesman, a senior analyst at the non-partisan Center for Strategic and International Studies. Cordesman issued a report declaring that the insurgents had lost militarily but won a political victory at Fallujah.

Sattler said he could not confirm a report that troops had found a headquarters used by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian terrorist believed to have escaped Fallujah before the fighting began.

But he said they had found sites used to make car bombs and

other weapons, as well as what he described as "the National Islamic Resistance operations center."

Sattler displayed photos of what he described as "blood-stained walls and surfaces down in the basement and the tools for what appears to be some type of a torture chamber" in the center.

Computers that may have been used to mass-produce DVDs of the insurgents' deeds for distribution as propaganda also were found there, he said.

Troops also found "a number of ledgers" that "list individuals, list fighters from other countries, other parts of the globe, not just immediately surrounding the country of Iraq" that should provide useful intelligence, he said.

"This has disrupted them, I be-

lieve — I personally believe — across the country."

International analyst Cordesman said in his written report that insurgents could gain politically from the battle in several ways.

"The level of hostility that the fighting in Fallujah has created among Arab Sunnis, many other Iraqis and Arabs outside Iraq raises serious questions about its impact on future insurgent activity," he wrote.

"It may well make it much easier [for them] to get recruits and to justify violence," he added. "It also has almost certainly increased the slow but steady polarization of Iraqi Sunnis into a group that feels disgraced and deprived of power and wealth by

the invasion and the occupation that has followed."

Adding that a recent TV videotape of a Marine killing an apparently unarmed and wounded insurgent had been a propaganda "godsend" to the rebels, Cordesman concluded that "So far, therefore, Fallujah has been a political victory for the insurgents."

Michael Vickers, a Pentagon consultant and former CIA operations officer, said the operation "could have dealt a pretty good blow to the insurgency. I just don't think you can say it broke the back."

The test of the operation's success will be whether Iraqi security forces, backed by U.S. troops, can maintain law and order there from now on and whether most Sunnis decide to reject rebellion and accept a new democratic political system, Vickers said.

Injured troops fall ill to rare blood infection

By LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Servicemembers injured in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan are coming down with a rare blood infection that is proving very resistant to antibiotics, according to a new report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report, which was released this week, said that 102 patients at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington and three other military health care sites were diagnosed with the infection between Jan. 1, 2002, and Aug. 31, 2004.

Of those infections, 83 percent cropped up in servicemembers who had been wounded while serving in the Iraq and Kuwait region during Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, the report said.

Military researchers are concerned because such a large number of these cases

is unusual, Navy Capt. Joe Malone, director of the Defense Department's Global Emerging Infections section at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md., told Stars and Stripes in a Thursday telephone interview.

The infection, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, is well known to doctors and has shown up in patients hospitalized all over the globe, but it is not especially common, Malone said.

In fact, the organism causes just 1.3 percent of infections reported by hospitals, according to the report.

A *baumanni*, as researchers call the bacteria, has two qualities that make it difficult to control its effects.

The first is that the bacteria can live for weeks at a time on hard surfaces such as tables or doorknobs, Malone said.

The second issue is that the organism is resistant to standard antibiotics, making "treatment of infections attributed to *A. baumannii* ... increasingly difficult," the report said.

The report noted, "The importance of infection control during treatment in combat and health-care settings and the need to develop new antimicrobial drugs to treat these infections."

Officials would not comment on symptoms, how they are identified or the severity of the cases.

Now that the cluster of cases has been identified, the next step is for researchers to determine why so many deployed servicemembers are coming down with the infection, Malone said.

"We're working very hard to investigate why" these members were infected, Malone said.

Military researchers aren't beginning from scratch in the hunt for the source of the problem, however.

During the Vietnam War, the bacteria "was reported to be the most common [bacteria of this class] recovered from traumatic injuries to extremities," the report said.

And since the some of the more recent

cases occurred in members with similar injuries, "environmental contamination of wounds" might be a potential source of the infection, the report said.

"Environmental contamination" is the medical term for some kind of virus or bacteria a person might pick up from wherever he or she is at the time.

But while some of the patients in the report had the infection when they were first admitted to military medical facilities, the report said, researchers still don't know whether the members picked up the bacteria at the time they were wounded, during the evacuation process, or at a military medical facility in the field, the report said.

So while researchers plan to look at whether the military patients picked up the bacteria in the hospital where they were first diagnosed with the infection, the investigation will also include "detailed reviews of geographic locations where injuries occurred and reviews of the movement of injured patients through treatment facilities," the report said.

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FOB Speicher airfield to be key spoke in Tikrit hub

By STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — For 18 months, the vast airfield at Camp Speicher near Tikrit sat deserted and almost useless, its main runway and taxiways riddled with bomb craters from the U.S.-led invasion last year.

Sgt. 1st Class Floyd Gibson and his 13-man detachment of soldiers in the Aircraft Departure Airfield Command Group while away the hours in their lonely ply-

wood shack at the edge of the field.

They processed 10 or so passengers a day on one of the occasional C-23 Sherpa flights that stopped at the base.

"We started off with just one airplane coming out of here," said Gibson, 35, of the 536th Movement Control Team, an Army Reserve unit based in Orlando, Fla. Since then, things have become much busier.

Last summer, the 1st Infantry Division consolidated its CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk

helicopter traffic at Gibson's little terminal.

In September, C-130 cargo aircraft started flying to Kuwait and Qatar from Speicher.

Teams of National Guard combat engineers from Wisconsin and Ohio have nearly finished a four-month, \$4 million runway repair project that is paving the way for much bigger operations.

"We came in with the attitude that we are going to run it like any other Department of Defense airfield," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jamie Haas, 45, of the 1st ID's 4th Brigade, the airfield safety officer and architect of many of the changes.

The 4th Infantry Division, which preceded 1st ID at Speicher, flew nothing but helicopters out of the field, using the remaining good runway to store cargo.

But Brig. Gen. Stephen Mundt, assistant 1st ID commander for support, had quite a different vision for Speicher.

With an eye on moving the 1st ID to Task Force Danger headquarters to Speicher from Saddam Hussein's showy marble-palace compound across town, he and Haas imagined the field as a major hub rivaling the huge logistical supply airfields at Balad and Mosul.

Mundt ordered the runway cleared of containers, which allowed DHL to begin cargo flights.

This fall, contractor KBR added several Quonset huts to Gibson's plywood shack so soldiers could wait comfortably for flights.

Gibson also is working on getting a shower point and a sand-wich bar installed.

The construction work to repair the 18 bomb craters will boost the field's potential, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Zupancic, 38, of the Wisconsin National Guard's 26th Engineer Group, who is supervising the project.



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Nathan Kaminski, 24, left, and Spc. Brad Thieroff, 21, both of Toledo, Ohio, use a machine to drill holes as part of a \$4 million project to repair bomb damage to the runways and taxiways at the Forward Operating Base Speicher airfield in Tikrit, Iraq.

He expects the work to be finished by the end of November. When it's done, the 10,260-foot runway will be sturdy enough to handle big Air Force jets such as C-5s, C-17s, and C-141s.

"Hopefully, we'll get this rebuilt so these [1st ID] troops can fly directly home to Germany instead of going to Anacosta [Balad]," Zupancic said.

Haas isn't sure it can happen that quickly. "It'll be a very functional airfield in a year or so," Haas said.

"Eventually, this has the potential to move people in and out of theater."

Gibson said traffic already has increased to 150 or 200 soldiers a day, with C-130s carrying troops

to rest-and-recuperation flights in Kuwait almost daily.

Capt. Tom Klump, 25, personnel officer of the 1st ID's 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, is in charge of sending his unit's troops home on leave.

As he waited for his own R&R flight Wednesday, he said the addition of C-130s at Speicher has drastically curtailed his need to load vacation-bound soldiers into trucks for dangerous convoy runs to Balad or Mosul from the unit's base in Baiji, 30 miles northwest of Tikrit.

"For these guys up north, it's obviously a lot safer," Klump said.

"The less time you spend driving around out there, the better."

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Spc. Rico Williams, 25, of the Ohio National Guard's 216th Engineer Battalion, raves in a bomb crater under repair at the airfield, while a steam shovel digs nearby.

Pentagon launches new support program

BY PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has a message for its troops serving in war zones: America Supports You.

That's the name of a new campaign, introduced Friday at the Pentagon by Charlie Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Abell said the program is designed so that the Department of Defense can "realize what's going on and to be able to tell our soldiers and their families that we support you."

The effort is two-pronged, according to Allison Barber, special assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, internal communication/public liaison.

"We're going to go to Americans and say, 'Join our Web site. Tell us what you're doing to support the troops.' The second part is we're going to take the info to the troops."

"We have a myriad of ways to talk to the troops, to provide information, and we're going to use them all," Abell said.

Barber said she also would be attending a taping of Ellen DeGeneres' daytime talk show that will have a segment devoted to the program, and said the DOD is aggressively pursuing other high-profile shows, such as "Live



PHOTOS BY LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Left: USO President Edward Powell Jr., left, and Charlie Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, talk Friday at the Pentagon rollout of the new "America Supports You" program. Right: Shanna Fleming, a 16-year-old from Orange, Calif., sports the new "America Supports You" dog tag. Fleming and school friends have collected more than 1 million letters and e-mails with messages of support and sent them to troops all over the world.

with Regis and Kelly" and the "Late Show with David Letterman."

Barber said that during visits to Iraq and Afghanistan, Defense officials were hearing servicemembers ask about the sentiments back home.

"Do Americans still support

us?" she said the troops were asking. "And of course the answer is yes. You and I see it here, the yellow ribbons and all the terrific things folks are doing, but the guys overseas don't see it. We have a communications gap."

The Web site, <http://americasupportsyou.mil>, will be a place

where Americans can "join the team," Barber said.

A text block asks you what you've done to support the troops, and when you send the information, it gives you the opportunity to link to Stars and Stripes' Web site, where you can be shipped an "America Supports You" dog tag



by providing a shipping address.

There's also a space for Americans to send messages to the troops. One such message was on the new site Friday:

"Despite what you hear or read in the media back home, America thanks you for defending our way of life. We support you and may God bless you, keep you safe and return you home soon," wrote "Jeff" from San Antonio.

Barber cited America's flagging support as the Vietnam War continued as one reason for the campaign.

"In the Sixties, we did not do a good job of separating the war from the warrior. As the war grew unpopular, people started taking it out on the GI," she said.

Abell reiterated that point when asked if Americans could support the troops without supporting the war.

"I think America can do this easily. If you don't support the war, you can still support the troops."

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6 NATO nations refuse to train Iraqi military

BY BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At least six NATO allies are refusing to send military instructors to help the United States train Iraqi officers, another impediment in the Bush administration's drive for support for its effort to pacify Iraq.

The six nations — Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, Luxembourg and Greece — had refused to contribute troops to the U.S.-led coalition that overthrew President Saddam Hussein and to the postwar campaign against insurgents.

The administration was hoping to forge a consensus on postwar peacemaking. The project to train Iraqi officers will not include combat duties and is part of a broader security program.

A State Department official close to the dispute said Friday that NATO allies voted on Wednesday at alliance headquarters in Brussels for the training program and agreed to help fund it.

However, at least six held out

from playing any active role and refused to send officers to NATO staging areas in Norfolk, Va., and Mons, Belgium.

Hungary, which is withdrawing its troops from Iraq, will contribute a company to help protect the training officers, the official said. Fifteen other NATO countries will contribute trainers, protect troops, or both.

The United States will bear a large share of the costs and contribute a sizable percentage of the 400 officers and a protective force of about 1,200, the official said. An advance contingent of 60 to 65 officers will go to Baghdad in the four to six weeks to begin the training program.

While NATO long has played a postwar peacekeeping role in Afghanistan, disapproval lingers over the Bush administration's decision to go to war in Iraq.

The decision to use NATO nations to train Iraqi officers is the first collective action on Iraq by the alliance, the official said.

By contrast, the official said, NATO might increase its forces in Afghanistan.

SEAL faces Article 32 hearing for abuse charge

BY SETH HETTENA

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Navy SEAL lieutenant faced a hearing Monday on allegations he assaulted an Iraqi civilian who died at the Abu Ghraib prison, the Navy said.

An Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a civilian grand jury, will be held at Naval Base San Diego for the unnamed officer.

The lieutenant allegedly punched Mandel al-Jamadi in the torso, and allowed personnel under his command to abuse him, according to a charging document released by the Navy on Thursday.

Al-Jamadi, a suspect in the bombing of a Red Cross facility, was captured by SEALs in November 2003 during a joint special forces-CIA mission, and died a short time later at Abu Ghraib prison.

Al-Jamadi died from blunt force trauma to the upper torso complicated by hampered breathing, according to a military pathologist.

McCain slams Al-Jazeera

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Former presidential candidate Sen. John McCain slammed Arab television station Al-Jazeera for repeatedly airing video of a U.S. Marine killing an apparently unarmed man in Iraq but not film of a British hostage being killed by her kidnappers.

"Shame on Al-Jazeera and shame on those people for doing what they did," McCain, a Republican who ran for president in 2000, said in response to a question after a speech Thursday.

Al-Jazeera, a satellite station was among Arab networks that aired video of the Marine shooting and killing the man in a mosque in Fallujah. The video fanned anti-American feelings

throughout the Mideast, where it dominated news coverage Wednesday.

Al-Jazeera said it chose not to air videotape showing the killing of a blindfolded woman believed to be Margaret Hassan, a long-time British aid worker in Iraq, because it doesn't show acts of killing other than war.

McCain, a Navy pilot held prisoner for years in Vietnam, was asked whether the U.S. government should exercise more control over film and reports by media embedded with U.S. military units. The questioner cited the Marine shooting video, which was taken by U.S. television network NBC.

He said he didn't know, but is "deeply, deeply troubled" by the incident.

Fighting stifles aid

GENEVA — Relief organizations estimate that to 250,000 Iraqis have fled Fallujah to nearby villages and Baghdad, but the groups have not been able to assess the refugees' needs because of fighting around the former insurgent bastion, a U.N. official said Thursday.

Astrid van Genderen Stort, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Amman, Jordan, said there didn't appear to be an immediate threat of a lack of food.

She said relief workers worry that the increased population may be overwhelming water and sanitation facilities in some areas.

From The Associated Press

'Triangle of death' a fatal zone for troops

Insurgents pay cash bounties for supporters of Iraq war

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A portly Shiite cleric, Abu Qusai sheds his black robe for a training suit and exchanges his white turban for a baseball cap, an effort to mask his identity for a risky trip through what has become known as the "triangle of death."

The region has become a death zone for many Shiite Muslims, Westerners and members of the Iraqi security services, many of whom have become the victims of Sunni Muslim insurgents and gunmen — some who receive bounties of several thousand dollars.

The triangle, formed by the cities of Youssefiah to the northwest, Latifiyah to the south and Mahmudiya to the east, holds the fastest routes from Baghdad southward to the Shiite shrines in Najaf and Karbala.

The area is no less dangerous for foreigners than the better known insurgent strongholds west of the capital, including Fallujah and Ramadi.

French journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot disappeared Aug. 20 on their way from Baghdad to Najaf. They remain missing, though their Syrian driver, Mohammed al-Joundi, was found by U.S. troops last week in Fallujah.

Two members of a Polish television crew were killed and a third was wounded in an attack near Mahmudiya in May. Four months earlier, two Iraqis working for CNN were shot and killed while traveling through the same area.

Bayan Jabar of the major Shiite political party said that a week ago, five Shiites traveling to Najaf from Diyala province near the Iranian border were waylaid in the "triangle of death" and shot dead. The attackers demanded — and received — \$15,000 from their families to return the bodies.

According to Jabar, insurgent leaders in the area offer cash bounties for killing certain kinds of people: \$1,000 for a Shiite, \$2,000 for a member of the Iraqi National Guard and \$5,000 for an American.

"Dozens of people have been killed during Ramadan because of their sect," said Hussain al-Shahrastani, a close aide of Iraq's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. "The government is responsible for protecting its citizens and for securing a safe way for them to move."

U.S. Marines operate in the area, reinforced for the month by Britain's Black Watch regiment. Shortly after arriving from the relatively peaceful south, the Black Watch lost three soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter in a suicide attack Nov. 4.

One day after the Black Watch attack, insurgents blew up a bridge near Latifiyah, and four buses carrying Shiite pilgrims to Karbala plunged into the Euphrates River, killing 18 people. Two days later, 12 Iraqi National Guardsmen were abducted and murdered on their way home to Najaf by militants dressed as policemen.

With U.S. and Iraqi forces unable to stop the killings, many professional drivers are taking a 150-mile detour from Baghdad to Najaf. The route takes travelers well east of Latifiyah, whose name derives from the Arabic word for "decent" but which is the most dangerous point on the "triangle of death."

A taxi driver from Najaf, who gave his name only as Abu Maki, said Latifiyah residents call the insurgents the "Opel gangs" because they often use Opel cars looted from police stations to carry out their attacks.

Some Iraqis attribute the trouble in the area to demographic changes in the 1980s, when Saddam Hussein relocated large numbers of Sunni Muslims into what historically has been a largely Shiite area. The plan was to settle members of his own religious community along main routes from Baghdad to the Shiite heartland of the south.

Saddam recruited members of Sunni clans and tribes in the area into the Republican Guard and intelligence services. During the failed Shiite uprising of 1991, Sunnis, especially from the al-Janab tribe, were used to curb the rebellion.

Many of the Sunnis that relocated to the "triangle of death," including the al-Janab tribe, came from Anbar, the volatile Sunni province at the heart of the insurgency where Fallujah is located.

Residents said insurgents have been distributing leaflets warning that Sunni landowners who lease land to Shiite farmers face death if they don't dismiss their tenants. The U.N.-funded ReliefWeb said last month that about 500 Shiite families had fled the Latifiyah area for Karbala because of threats.

That has raised prospects of a backlash among Shiites who have decided that they must defend themselves if the government and the multinational force cannot.

In Basra, a group called the "Brigades of Anger" has emerged, vowing to defend Shiites in Iraq from any group deemed a threat. A leader of the group, Dheyaa al-Mahdi, said that he will give the go-ahead for his followers to avenge the killing of Shiites.

Al-Mahdi blames Wahhabis, an extreme sect of Sunni Islam dominant in Saudi Arabia, for encouraging and funding operations aimed at Shiites in Iraq.



A U.S. Marine leads away a captured Iraqi man in the center of Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 12. U.S. Marines fighting their way through Iraq's rebel-infested Fallujah are seeking fighters and guns in the battle against Sunni Muslim insurgents and gunmen who receive cash bounties for killing their victims.

U.S. conduct autopsies on 4 insurgents killed in Iraq

BY TOM BOWMAN

The Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON — The bodies of four Iraqi insurgents who died in the battle of Fallujah were expected to arrive Thursday night at the U.S. Air Force Base in Dover, Del., for autopsies as part of an expanding investigation into whether they were killed by U.S. forces after they surrendered or while they were wounded, Defense Department officials said.

The four are part of a Naval Criminal Investigation Service probe of the videotaped shooting of an apparently wounded and unarmed insurgent by a Marine at a Fallujah mosque last week, according to three officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The Pentagon decided to

bring the bodies to the United States to take advantage of the sophisticated mortuary and forensic experts at Dover, which is also the gateway for American servicemen killed abroad, the officials said.

"All the right equipment's there and the expertise, too," one official said.

The number of bodies selected for autopsies reflects the expanded nature of the investigation since last Saturday when Kevin Sites, an embedded NBC News cameraman, videotaped a Marine from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, shooting an insurgent at a mosque.

Pentagon officials could not say whether all the bodies came from the same mosque, although Sites has suggested that other Marines may have shot additional insurgents.

Five wounded insurgents were in the mosque at the time, Sites said earlier this week.

Since then, he has declined to answer questions.

The Marine pictured shooting the insurgent on the video has been removed from the battlefield pending the results of the investigation into the fatal shooting of a wounded "enemy combatant," the military said. The Marine's name has not been released, but offered no details.

Military officers this week promised a full investigation and said the probe was expanding but offered no details.

Human Rights advocates welcomed an investigation and noted that the Geneva Conventions, which govern the treatment of civilians and combatants, strictly prohibit the shooting of combatants who have surrendered or who are wounded and unarmed.

Official: Bin Laden can no longer direct terror

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pakistan's military has been so effective in pressuring al-Qaida leaders hiding in the tribal region of western Pakistan that Osama bin Laden and his top deputies no longer are able to direct terrorist operations, a senior American commander said Thursday.

"They are living in the remotest areas of the world without any communications — other than courier — with the outside world or their people and unable to orchestrate or provide command and control over a terrorist network," said Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, deputy commander of Central Command.

"They are basically on the run and unable to really conduct operations except, in the very long term, provide vision and guidance as Osama bin Laden does when he provides one of those tapes," he added, alluding to a bin Laden

video tape released three weeks ago.

Bin Laden has been on the run since U.S. forces invaded Afghanistan in October 2001.

In a question-and-answer session at the Foreign Press Center, Smith said that for the first time since Pakistan was enlisted as a U.S. ally against al-Qaida, the Pakistani military forces hunting for al-Qaida figures will remain in the western tribal region through the winter.

South Waziristan, a semiautonomous tribal region along the border with Afghanistan, long has been regarded as one of the most likely hiding places for bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, although there has been no intelligence to confirm that.

U.S. military forces remain largely on the Afghanistan side in hopes of capturing or killing any al-Qaida operatives who cross the border.

JPAC leads effort to locate missing in war

HONOLULU — James Coyle, intelligence research director for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base here, has spent most of his professional life investigating the whereabouts of hundreds of Americans lost in service to nation.

His commitment to that quest has not flagged in 18 years, he said. But Coyle, 57, defines his motivation more narrowly than would many JPAC colleagues.

"I don't really do it for the families," he said. "I do it for the memory of the people who gave their lives in service to their country. Those people deserve to have what happened to them found out and reported."

As a historian, linguist and intelligence analyst, Coyle has made

dozens of trips, conducted hundreds of interviews, and sifted through mountains of documents to find lost U.S. servicemen. Perhaps given his immersion in the human cost of war, he has strong personal views on topics like the Iraq war.

"We're in Iraq because we failed to learn from Vietnam," Coyle said, adding, "You don't bring democracy with bayonets."

JPAC leads a \$100-million-a-year effort to gain the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing from past wars. Half of that is spent by JPAC directly, with 75 cents on every budget dollar going to investigative and recovery missions.

In the last year, JPAC teams visited Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, North and South Korea, Burma, Tibet, New Guinea, Palau, Alha-

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

nia, France and Washington state. The investigative teams seek leads and information. When enough evidence is found, recovery teams return to excavate sites where remains of U.S. servicemen might be found.

The 440-person JPAC was formed in October 2003, by combining the world's most sophisticated forensics facility, the Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI), and Joint Task Force Full Accounting. JTFFA got its start in 1992, a better-funded version of the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) begun after the Vietnam War.

CILHI, since its founding 30 years ago, has had a global mandate to identify U.S. remains from all past wars. But most remains came from Southeast Asia because the JCRC mandate was to find the missing from Vietnam. By 1992, pressure from the families of lost Vietnam veterans helped to shape support for a full accounting of missing from all past

Wars. Creation of JPAC, Coyle said, reinforced that national priority.

"This probably is never going to end, certainly not in my lifetime," he said, of the searches to find remains. Numbers tell the tale.

Though 1,849 remain are missing from the Vietnam War, that number is small compared to 78,000 never recovered after World War II and 8,100 lost in Korea. Another 120 U.S. servicemen disappeared during the Cold War and one pilot in the first Gulf War.

Coyle, an Army foreign-language officer in Vietnam (1969-70), said America committed to recovering remains after that war in part because of scientific advances in identifying remains and in part because America lost the war, a fact that a lot of veterans from his generation refuse to accept.

"After World War II we had control of the battlefield. We had the Graves Registration Service," Coyle said. Yet by 1955, with almost 80,000 Americans still missing, the organized search for casualties ended.

The thinking was, Coyle said, "people in war sometimes went missing." But with Vietnam, expectations changed.

"We didn't have control of the battlefield" when the fighting

stopped, Coyle said. So the view of many Americans was, "Damn it all, they owe us an explanation!"

Fueled that anger, he said, was "widespread belief that Americans were left behind during the war."

Coyle believed it himself. He saw the chaos of the war's end first-hand. Having married Ngoc-Anh, a Vietnamese, Coyle returned to get her out days before South Vietnam fell to the communists in April 1975.

Today he feels most of the missing from Vietnam probably won't be found. The soil there is highly acidic, which accelerates decomposition of bone. Porcupines eat teeth for calcium to replace quills.

"The real problem facing us ... is time," Coyle said. "Time is reducing the number of eyewitnesses [and] destroying, little by little, the physical evidence, including aircraft wreckage, uniform pieces [and] remains."

Through extraordinary efforts, remains are being found, both from Vietnam and earlier wars. That makes the effort worthwhile, he said.

"As long as people want us to keep looking," Coyle said, "we'll keep looking."

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

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IN THE STATES

Iraq nuke info came from unverified source

BY DAFNA LINZER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell shared information with reporters Wednesday about Iran's nuclear program that was classified and based on an unvetted, single source who provided information that two U.S. officials said Thursday was highly significant if true but has not yet been verified.

Powell and other senior Cabinet members were briefed last week on the sensitive intelligence. The material was stamped "No Foreign," meaning it was not to be shared with allies, although President Bush decided that portions could be shared last week with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, officials said.

According to one official with access to the material, a "walk-in"

**See related story
on Page 14**

source approached U.S. intelligence earlier this month with more than 1,000 pages purported to be Iranian drawings and technical documents, including a nuclear warhead design and modifications enabling Iranian ballistic missiles to deliver an atomic strike. The official agreed to discuss the information on the condition of anonymity and only because Powell had alluded to it publicly.

But U.S. intelligence officials have been combing the information carefully and with a wary eye, mindful of the mistakes made in trusting intelligence information alleging that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

If the information on Iran is confirmed, it would mean the Islamic republic is further along than previously known in developing a nuclear weapon and the means to deliver it. The documents included a specific warhead design with an implosion device on the tip and adjustments aimed at outfitting the warhead on existing Iranian missile systems.

U.S. intelligence has known since at least 2002 that Iran is capable of enriching uranium, the key ingredient in a nuclear bomb.

Iran also has a successful missile program. But U.S. nuclear inspectors who have been investigating Iran for nearly two years have found no evidence that Tehran possesses a nuclear warhead design or is conducting a nuclear weapons program.

The Islamic republic, which on Sunday entered into a new deal

with France, Britain and Germany to suspend its nuclear program, has denied it is trying to build atomic weapons and insists its work is part of a budding energy effort.

Western intelligence estimates of Iran's capabilities vary. But U.S. officials believe Iran could be three to five years from completing a bomb if it is successful at constructing and operating thousands of highly sophisticated centrifuge parts for enriching uranium.

The information provided by the source, who was not previously known to U.S. intelligence, does not mention uranium or any other area of Iran's known nuclear program, according to the official with access to the material. It focuses instead on a warhead design and modifications to Iran's long-range Shahab-3 missile and a medium-range missile in its ar-

senal. The Shahab-3 has a range of 800 miles and is capable of hitting Israel.

The official said the CIA remains unsure about the authenticity of the documents and how the informant came into their possession. A second official would say only that there are questions about the source of the information.

Officials interviewed by The Washington Post did not know the identity of the source or whether the individual is connected to an Iranian exile group that made fresh accusations about Iran at a news conference Wednesday in Paris. The National Council for Resistance in Iran charged that Iran was still enriching uranium and will continue to do so despite the pledge made Sunday to European foreign ministers.

Staff writers Robin Wright in Santiago, Chile, and Glenn Kessler in Washington contributed to this report.

FDA defends handling of drug safety

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Food and Drug Administration official said Friday "we categorically reject" accusations the agency has failed to protect the public against dangerous drugs.

"All the drugs that are on the market have risks," asserted Dr. Steven Galson, acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Appearing on morning television a day after an FDA critic renewed allegations the regulatory agency mishandled the arthritis drug Vioxx, Galson also said that a review is under way of five other medications whose safety was questioned.

For the second consecutive Friday, Merck & Co. placed full-page advertising in select newspapers.

The ads highlight the company's commitment to transparency in research, commitment to patient safety and the health of its balance sheet. Economists estimate the Vioxx disaster could ultimately cost Merck up to \$18 billion in lost profits and legal costs.

One of a trio of full-page ads in Friday's Wall Street Journal, Merck proclaims a 100-year tradition of putting patients first, wording that echoes the

company president's testimony before Congress one day earlier.

"When we obtain data from our clinical studies, we promptly disclose them," the ad states. "When questions arise about our medicines, we quickly analyze the available data, explore their meaning within the company and in scientific forums, and conduct further studies as warranted."

In testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, FDA reviewer David Graham had cited the acne drug Accutane, the weight loss drug Meridia, the anti-cholesterol drug Crestor, the pain reliever Bextra, and the asthma drug Serenite. The manufacturers of these drugs defended the use and safety of their products.

Graham argued that the country is "virtually defenseless" against a repeat of the Vioxx debacle. Galson immediately rejected that, saying it had "no basis in fact."

"What we're concerned about is the sort of hysterical charges that come out, that aren't based on reality," Galson said Friday on NBC's "Today" show.

"I think the drug industry would be astounded at the charges we're too cozy with them," he said. "I spend a lot of time dealing with complaints from the drug industry."

New tests under way for mad cow

BY TOM RAUM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer and cattle-industry groups joined the government in cautioning against public alarm as federal scientists investigate a possible new case of mad cow disease.

The U.S. Agriculture Department said Thursday that additional checks were needed after an initial screening proved inconclusive for the disease in a single animal. Results will be known in four days to seven days.

The announcement raised fears that the United States might have its second case of the fatal brain-wasting disease and rattled the cattle industry, meat companies and hamburger restaurant chains.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, attacks an animal's nervous sys-

tem. People who eat food contaminated with BSE can contract a rare disease that is nearly always fatal — variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

"The inconclusive result does not mean we have found another case of BSE in this country," said Andrea Morgan, associate deputy administrator of the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

She said the department "remains confident in the safety of the U.S. beef supply."

The "inconclusive result" was the same term the agency used in June when two potential cases turned out to be false alarms.

Industry and consumer groups emphasized that the test results were preliminary and that no part of the animal in question had entered the food or feed chain.

Jan Lyons, a Kansas cattle producer who is president of the Na-

tional Cattlemen's Beef Association, said the test result "is simply one step in the process" and that a tissue sample was being tested at a national agricultural laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

"We can't guarantee at this point that this 'inconclusive' represents a positive case," Lyons said.

The Consumer Federation of America suggested that the inconclusive label was misleading and that the government should have reported the findings as a "preliminary positive test."

Still, federation official Carol Tucker said, the announcement should not alarm consumers.

In the only confirmed U.S. case, a Canadian-born Holstein was found to have been infected in Washington state last December. More than 40 countries cut off imports of U.S. beef and more than 700 additional cattle in Washington state, Oregon and Idaho were killed as a precaution.



Former President Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea Clinton share an emotional moment at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center during opening ceremonies in Little Rock, Ark. The center will be the site to Clinton's library collection of more than 80 million presidential items.

Clinton still a crowd pleaser

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — To Bill Clinton, the new presidential library jutting over the Arkansas River represents what he tried to do in the White House — build bridges. To the average admirers who headed there Friday, the main attraction was the humor and humanity it displayed.

The building was dedicated at a gala Thursday, and on Friday morning, members of the public not on the guest list the day before were able to walk up and buy tickets.

Beverly Prather of Daytona Beach, Fla., and Sue Ellen Browning of Auburn, Ky., were among the first to get a look at the inside.

They said they particularly liked the focus on Clinton's humanity in the museum exhibits.

The women said the largest crowds of people Friday gathered around pictures of the Clintons dressed up at Halloween parties and videos of their comedy spoofs. "It seemed so natural. At the videos, everybody was laughing. That's where the crowds stopped," Prather said.

Money talks: Bush gave jobs to big donors

BY SHARON THEIMER
The Associated Press

One-third of top 2000 fund-raisers got posts in first administration

WASHINGTON — One-third of President Bush's top 2000 fund-raisers or their spouses were appointed to positions in his first administration, an Associated Press review found.

Three top fund-raisers became Cabinet secretaries: Bush 2000 finance chairman Don Evans at Commerce, Elaine Chao at Labor and Tom Ridge at Homeland Security.

At least eight took other high-profile administration jobs, such as State Department chief fi-

nancial officer Christopher Burnham and Jose Fourquet, U.S. executive director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

At least two dozen of the 2000 fund-raisers or their spouses became ambassadors, mostly to Europe. Howard Leach, a California agribusiness investment banker and former finance chairman of the Republican National Committee, went to Paris. Lobbyist Peter Terpeluk went to Luxembourg.

At least 57 contributors or their

spouses were named to agency positions, advisory or decision-making committees and boards or to U.S. delegations.

James Langdon, a Washington lawyer, was named to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, which advises Bush on intelligence-gathering and counterintelligence. Langdon also was among guests at a state dinner honoring the president of Poland, was stayed overnight at Camp David and served on Bush's energy transition team.

Hersh Kozlov, a New Jersey lawyer, was appointed to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiation, which advises Bush on trade agreements. Texas lobbyist Roger Wallace joined the Inter-American Foundation board, which provides development grants to Central America and the Caribbean.

About a half-dozen spouses were given posts on panels, such as the board of advisers at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the National Museum Services Board.

Michelle Engler, a lawyer who is married to former Michigan Gov. John Engler, was named to the Federal Home Mortgage Insurance Corp. board. It oversees a government-sponsored company that finances and insures billions of dollars worth of home mortgages.

In addition to the appointments, at least three-dozen pioneers or others at their companies had front-row seats as Bush assembled his first administration and set policy priorities. Energy, Treasury and Commerce were the most popular transition teams among Bush pioneers.

Tom Kuhn, head of the Edison

Electric Institute, was on Bush's energy transition team. So, too, was 2000 pioneer Kenneth Lay, a longtime Bush friend and donor who now faces criminal charges in the Enron scandal. He was not on the list of top Bush re-election fund-raisers.

White House spokeswoman Erin Healy said Bush appointed the contributors because he believed they were well qualified. "His main objective in appointing someone is finding the person who will get the job done, and someone who has the best qualifications," Healy said.

The practice of rewarding big donors and fund-raisers with ambassadorships and government appointments is ingrained in Washington. Former President Bill Clinton, in his first year in office, picked five \$100,000-plus Democratic donors to be ambassadors.

"Just because it is done often does not make it right," said Larry Noble, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan campaign finance watchdog group.

While the appointed pioneers may be qualified for the jobs, Noble said, "Clearly the White House was not looking at the whole pool of talent available out there."

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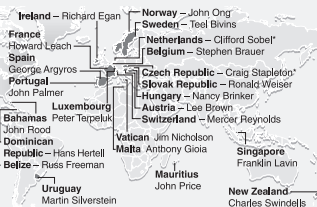
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Top fund-raisers land diplomatic posts

Fund-raisers for the Bush-Cheney 2000 campaign who raised around \$100,000 were given coveted ambassador positions around the world in President Bush's first term.

Ambassador posts for top Bush-Cheney 2000 fund-raisers



* Spouse was fundraiser

The anti-President Schwarzenegger platform

SACRAMENTO — A Texas radio host launched a Web-based offensive Thursday against efforts to change the U.S. Constitution to allow Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to run for president of the United States. Alex Jones, an Austin-based talk show host, said the site raised \$5,000 in its first two hours.

Senator warns Goss about CIA changes

WASHINGTON — A Democratic senator warned CIA Director Porter Goss Thursday that his efforts to make major changes could have "a significant and negative effect on the agency."

In a letter to Goss, Senator Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat from California, also said she feared the "politicization of our intelligence services" because Goss sent an e-mail this week to agency employees telling them to serve the Bush administration.

Congress pushes for budget deal

WASHINGTON — Budget bargainers whittled their differences Friday in hopes that Congress can speed an overdue \$388 billion bill to President Bush that funds most federal agencies.

The giant measure, which leaders hope to pass by Saturday, bears extra money for priorities like veterans and Sudan.

From The Associated Press

Ala. church bomber Cherry dies in prison

BY BOB JOHNSON

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Bobby Frank Cherry, convicted of killing four black girls in a racially motivated bombing of a Birmingham church in 1963, died Thursday in prison. He was 74.

Cherry, suffering from cancer, died in the hospital unit at Kilby Correctional Facility in Montgomery, a Department of Corrections spokesman said.

Cherry, of Mableton, Texas, was convicted in May 2002 in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church,

a gathering place for civil rights demonstrators in Birmingham, and was sentenced to life in prison. It was the deadliest act of civil rights era.

Cherry was among three former Ku Klux Klan members convicted in the bombing, which killed the four girls as they were preparing to take part in a Sunday morning service.

Thomas Blanton was convicted in 2001 and is serving a life prison sentence. Robert Chambliss, convicted in 1977, also died in prison.

The Sept. 15, 1963, explosion killed Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley, all 14, and Denise McNeil, 11.

Collins' sister, Sarah Collins Ru-

dolph, lost an eye in the blast, but her husband expressed sorrow that Cherry had died.

"I hope he was saved. I hope he repented," George C. Rudolph said.

Cherry had been ill for some time and complained last summer he was not receiving proper treatment and was being held as a political prisoner.

His daughter, Karen Sunderland, said the family would take Cherry's body to Texas, where she lives and where her father had moved in the early 1970s, for burial.

"He was a good man," she said, sobbing.

The bomb shook downtown Birmingham as church members prepared for a youth-led Sunday worship service. The city's public schools had been integrated a few days earlier after a six-year court fight, and tensions had been running high.

While Cherry, Blanton and Chambliss were all considered suspects within days afterward, the case went unsolved for years until then-Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley reopened the investigation and successfully prosecuted Chambliss in 1977.

Though Cherry allowed involvement in the bombing, both publicly and in interviews with investigators, prosecutors reopened the case in 1995 and found five estranged family members and acquaintances who said Cherry boasted of taking part.

"He said he lit the fuse," ex-wife Willadean Brogdon testified at his trial.

He was convicted May 22, 2002.

Man gets execution reprieve

The Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Sitting in a small holding cell a few feet from the Texas death chamber, condemned inmate Troy Kunkle received word he would live another day.

A 5-4 ruling Thursday evening from the U.S. Supreme Court kept Kunkle, 38, from becoming the 24th Texas inmate to be executed this year.

The decision by the high court to consider a review of his case came about 40 minutes after the time Texas prison officials could have administered the lethal injection. Texas authorities, however, refrain from moving forward with the injections until all court cases have been exhausted. The indefinite reprieve was the second for Kunkle this year. In July, the high court stopped his lethal injection about nine hours before he was scheduled to die.

Kunkle was condemned for a fatal shooting in Corpus Christi 20 years ago. According to testimony at his capital murder trial, Kunkle was 18 when he fatally shot Stephen Horton, 31.

Defense lawyers contended Kunkle, born in Nuremberg, Germany, whose father was in the military, was raised in a troubled home environment and left mentally scarred by parents who had been treated for depression.



Kunkle

boy sexually assaulted another boy in a middle-school stairway after chasing the victim from a bathroom, authorities said.

The school's principal was replaced pending an investigation, and three police officers were added to the five already stationed at Stetson Middle School.

Mail shootings

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — A gunman fatally shot two people and wounded a

Discovery of ape may bridge evolutionary gap

Find sparks debate over modern man's continent of origin

BY DIETRA HENDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A nearly 13 million-year-old ape discovered in Spain is the last probable common ancestor to all living humans and great apes, a research team says in Friday's issue of Science magazine.

A husband-and-wife team of fossil sleuths unearthed an animal with a body like an ape, fingers like a chimp and the upright posture of humans. The ancient ape bridges the gap between earlier, primitive animals and later, modern creatures.

This newest ape species, *Pierolapithecus catalaunicus*, is so significant that it adds a new page to ancient human history.

The researchers sidestepped a controversy raging through the field by not claiming their find moves great ape evolution — and the emergence of humans — from Africa to Europe. Salvador Moya-Sola, one of the Science paper co-authors, said the new ape species probably lived in both places.

"The problem is the fossil record," Moya-Sola said. "The fossil record in Africa, especially in the upper Miocene, is very scarce. And the fossils are very rare. But this is only a question of work, and work, and work."

David Begun, a University of Toronto researcher who studies fossil evidence of human and ape evolution, said the Spanish find bolsters his view that modern apes evolved primarily in Eurasia.

"There is nothing in Africa, so you can always speculate they might have been there," Begun said. "I prefer to go with the evidence."

Coaxed by a reporter to say *Pierolapithecus catalaunicus* represented a "missing link," Meike Kohler, another of the paper's co-authors, demurred. "I don't like, very much, to use this word."

Kohler added: "This does not mean that just this individual — or even this species, exactly this species — must have been the species that gave rise to everything else that came later in the great tree. But it is, if not the species, most probably a very closely related species that gave rise to it."

Maybe. Maybe not, argues David Strait, an assistant profes-

sor of anthropology at the University at Albany who studies early humans.

He said the specimen is "spectacular," but he worried the team's approach to assessing evolutionary relationships was a bit informal and needs confirmation by more rigorous methods.

"Ancestor" is a loaded term. It's very hard to identify ancestors in the fossil record," Strait cau-

Ape ancestor found in Spain

Fossil sleuths in Spain unearthed bones of an animal that may have been the last common ancestor to living great apes, including humans, gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans and others. The nearly 13-million-year-old species is called *Pierolapithecus catalaunicus*.



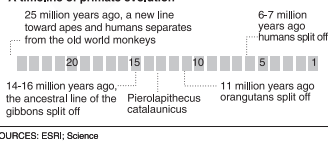
© AAAS/ Science

Illustration by Todd Marshall

Paleontologists pieced together 83 bones and fragments of bones from a male ape.

Like other great apes, the new find had a large thorax, upright posture, supple wrists and a flat face.

A timeline of primate evolution



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He said the specimen is "spectacular," but he worried the team's approach to assessing evolutionary relationships was a bit informal and needs confirmation by more rigorous methods.

"Ancestor" is a loaded term. It's very hard to identify ancestors in the fossil record," Strait cau-

tioned.

The site near Barcelona that yielded the specimen had only one hominid, or ape-like primate. Moya-Sola said apes, however, were common in the area millions of years ago. The team has already found a tooth elsewhere and expects to find more hominid fossils.

Living great apes include humans, chimps, gorillas and orangutans.

she isn't competent to be secretary of state.

John Sylvester, the program director and morning personality on WTDY-AM in Madison, Wisconsin, said in a phone interview Thursday that he used the term on Wednesday's show to describe Rice and other blacks as having "only a subservient role in the Bush administration."

Rice was named this week to replace the departing Colin Powell as secretary of state.

From The Associated Press

Day-care fire kills boy

AURORA, Colo. — A baby boy was killed Thursday when flames engulfed a home day-care operation, and an off-duty deputy suffered minor injuries when he braved thick smoke to try to save the infant.

The fire's cause was under investigation.

Middle school sex assault

PHILADELPHIA — An 11-year-old



Dana Reeve and son Will arrive for a gala fund-raiser for the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation in New York on Thursday night. The event raised \$1.7 million to continue Christopher Reeve's efforts to find a cure for spinal-cord injury victims. Reeve died of heart failure last month at the age of 52.

Stars remember Reeve with fund-raising tribute

BY JIM FITZGERALD

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gone but hardly forgotten, the late Christopher Reeve was remembered Thursday for his courage and commitment at a \$1.7 million fund-raising dinner that continued his efforts to find a cure for spinal-cord injury victims.

"Christopher pushed the boundaries beyond anything anyone could expect from any human being," said his widow, Dana Reeve, who succeeded him as chair of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Association. "A human being — not Superman, alas, but a human being."

"To me, he was a loving husband, a partner, a confidant, a sweet gift brought into my life," she said.

A star-studded crowd that included William H. Macy, Paul Simon, Minnie Driver and others turned out at what became yet another tribute to Reeve's indomitable spirit in the wake of his death last month at age 52.

"Our hero has passed on and now we need to be the heroes," Dana Reeve said. "Your heroic gesture, frankly, is to write a check."

Macy presented actress Glenn Close, a longtime Reeve friend who characterized the evening as bittersweet, with the foundation's Human Spirit Award.

"Christopher became a great

offered their memories of Reeve. "I grew up with the 'Superman' movies," Alt said.

Exposito recalled how his friend had accomplished so much without the use of his body.

"He was a profound leader," Exposito said. "We were all surprised and crushed at his demise. Those of us who know Chris, we're sure he's walking in heaven."

Actor Daryl Mitchell, paralyzed in a 2001 motorcycle accident, cited Reeve as an inspiration. "I had nobody to stand up for me, but Christopher did," he said.

Dana Reeve said this week that while the gala had naturally evolved into something of a tribute to him, it's important "that we're also thinking about the future and about fund-raising and about keeping his mission alive."

Reeve became the face of spinal cord injury after a May 1995 horse riding accident left him unable to use his arms or legs or breathe without a ventilator. He used his celebrity to lobby for more funds for biomedical research and aid to the disabled.

"Our hero has passed on and now we need to be the heroes. ... Your heroic gesture, frankly, is to write a check."

Dana Reeve, Christopher Reeve's widow

man, someone the whole world mourns," Chris told 900 guests at the New York Marriott Marquis.

"He is irreplaceable, and he is here urging us on."

A video tribute to Reeve featured Michael J. Fox and Susan Sarandon. "Chris's presence is palpable," his wife said.

Guests paid \$750 to \$10,000 to attend the annual dinner. Early arrivals included model Carlo, who acted and Giancarlo Esposito, who

Final farewell for a unique hip-hop voice

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Family and friends of the late rapper O.D.B. — including Grammy-winning singer Mariah Carey — packed a church Thursday in the vicinity where he grew up to remember one of hip-hop's most original characters.

The rapper, born Russell Tyrone Jones, died at age 35 after a life blessed with musical success — he co-founded the seminal rap group Wu-Tang Clan — and beset by personal problems, including drug alcohol and prison.

But his daughter, Taniqua Jones, recalled him as "a big kid" who enjoyed candy, cooking and spending time with his children. "One thing I know," she told the overflow crowd. "My father will be missed all around the world."

Carey, who collaborated with O'D Dirty Bastard on a remix of her hit "Fantasy," wore sunglasses and a black outfit as she walked to his casket during a wake before the service.

Another Wu-Tang member, RZA, told the audience he felt guilty for not intervening when Jones' lifestyle veered out of control.

Other speakers included Jones' daughter Shaquitta and son Bar-son. A large contingent of the rapper's family filled the front of the church during the nearly two-hour service.

O.D.B. collapsed and died Saturday inside a Manhattan recording studio. The cause of death remained undetermined, but the 35-year-old rapper had struggled with drug and alcohol addiction.

Mom: Rapper not treated fair

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Young Buck's mother says her son has been treated unfairly by police and demonized for his gangster rap songs that depict the harshness of street life.

Police say the 23-year-old rapper (real name: David Darnell Brown), whose debut album has sold more than 700,000 copies, is wanted in connection with a stabbing at Monday's Vibe Awards outside of Los Angeles.

Detectives were negotiating with

a lawyer representing Buck but had not yet reached a surrender agreement, police said Thursday.

Buck is shown wielding a knife on a videotape of the melee. The assault apparently occurred in retaliation against a man who had approached Dr. Dre — Buck's musical mentor — and began punching him as he was about to receive his honor. The victim was later identified as Jimmy James Johnson, a 26-year-old parolee from Los Angeles. Johnson suffered a collapsed lung and was hospitalized in stable condition.

Howard gets Sirius: Fans get free radios from Stern

BY VERENA DOBNIK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Howard Stern, surrounded by strippers and cheered by thousands of fans, began promoting his switch to satellite radio Thursday at a rally where he handed out free boom boxes and satellite subscriptions.

"Down with the FCC!" the shock jock told a legion of sign-waving backers. "They've ruined commercial broadcasting."

The fans agreed, screaming "Howard rules!" as their hero addressed the overflow crowd. Stern supporters spilled into the streets surrounding Manhattan's Union Square, stopping nonstop traffic throughout the neighborhood.

The fans agreed, screaming "Howard rules!" as their hero addressed the overflow crowd. Stern supporters spilled into the streets surrounding Manhattan's Union Square, stopping nonstop traffic throughout the neighborhood.

Stern will be able to say anything he wants once he starts at Sirius Satellite Radio, which is free of Federal Communications Commission restrictions. Stern has battled for years with the FCC over the content of his salacious show.

Last month, Stern announced



Radio host Howard Stern, below center, waits as thousands of his fans line up to receive a free Sirius radio from him in Union Square in New York on Thursday.

he was leaving traditional radio for Sirius — even though his current syndicated show is scheduled to run through December 2005.

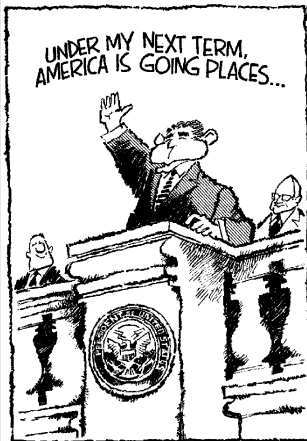
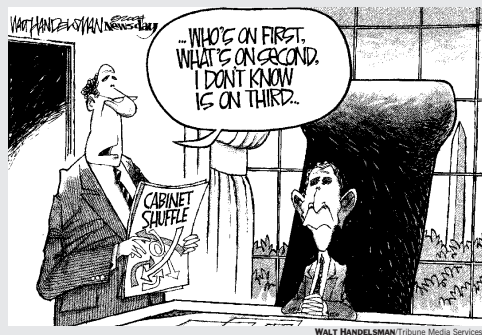
Stern has hinted on his morning program that his January 2006 start date at Sirius could be pushed up. His current employer, Infinity Broadcasting, has ordered Stern to cut back on his on-air references to his move.

"Once you start listening to [satellite], it's like crack," Stern said to cheers. "You will be addicted."

Stern personally handed out a free Sirius boom box to the first 500 fans, while he had another 20,000 redeemable certificates for free radios. The equipment allows listeners, for \$12.95 a month, to receive 120 channels of commercial-free music, sports, news, talk, entertainment and traffic.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



IN THE WORLD

Madrid power outage

MADRID, Spain — Electric power was expected to be restored by Friday afternoon to several thousand Madrid residents still affected by a major outage from the previous day.

A fire at a substation briefly cut service to about 250,000 residents and snarled traffic, disrupted subway lines and inconvenienced people and businesses that depend on elevators, telephones, refrigerators and the like.

The fire was declared under control by 9 p.m. Thursday, about four hours after it broke out. By early Friday, only about 11,000 customers remained without power.

Purse thief busted

OSLO, Norway — A purse snatched in a small Norwegian town picked the wrong 88-year-old woman to rob, since she was with a tough younger man at the time.

And her 78-year-old friend ended up sending the thief to the hospital, and then to jail this week, the local newspaper Moss Avisen reported Friday.

The report said the thief was on a bicycle when he snatched the purse in Raade, about 30 miles south of Oslo.

The 78-year-old man reacted instantly, grabbing hold of the purse and dragged the 30-year-old thief off his bike and onto the asphalt.

The stunned thief got up — bleeding profusely from a cut on the head — and staggered off, still clutching the woman's wallet which he had pulled from the purse.

Police located him and took him to a hospital, where he needed seven stitches.

Huge drug bust

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan — Tajikistan's anti-drug agency seized nearly 550 pounds of illegal drugs in the capital Dushanbe, officials said Friday.

The drugs, including about 418 pounds of raw opium and 60 pounds of heroin, were found earlier this week in a truck when it was searched by drug agency officers at a checkpoint on the border with Dushanbe, said Drug Control Agency spokesman Avaz Yuldashev. The truck driver was detained and the case is being investigated, he said.

U.N. changes floated

OXFORD, England — The United Nations Security Council should be expanded to include Germany, Japan and developing nations such as Brazil and India as permanent members, French President Jacques Chirac said Friday.

Speaking to about 200 students and faculty at Oxford University, Chirac laid out his vision of a "multipolar" world, balance between various powers and alliances rather than dominated by the United States. Speaking during a two-day visit to the university designed to heal the two countries' rift over Iraq, Chirac said his view of the world was shared by Prime Minister Tony Blair.

From The Associated Press

Diplomats: Iran nuclear program busy

Sources say nation stockpiling weapons ingredient ahead of shutdown

BY GEORGE JAHN

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran is using the last few days before it must stop all uranium enrichment to produce significant quantities of a key ingredient to make nuclear weapons, diplomats said Friday.

Iran recently started producing uranium hexafluoride at its gas processing facilities in Isfahan, the diplomats told The Associated Press. When introduced into centrifuges and spun, the substance can be enriched into weapons-grade uranium that forms the core of nuclear warheads.

Iran last week agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and all related activities in a deal worked out with Britain, France, Germany and the European Union. The deal, which takes effect Monday, prohibits Iran from all uranium gas processing activities.

But the diplomats, who spoke on condition

of anonymity, said Tehran was exploiting the window until Monday to produce uranium hexafluoride at its Isfahan plant in central Iran.

Asked about quantities, one diplomat said "it's not little," but he declined to elaborate.

Iran has huge reserves of raw uranium and has announced plans to extract more than 40 tons a year.

That amount, converted to uranium hexafluoride and repeatedly spun in centrifuges, theoretically could yield more than 200 pounds of weapons-grade highly enriched uranium, enough for about five crude nuclear weapons.

Iranian officials say the Isfahan plant can convert more than 300 tons of uranium ore a year.

Iran is not prohibited from making uranium hexafluoride until the deal takes force. But its decision to carry out uranium processing right up to the freeze deadline was expected to disappoint the Europeans — and give

the United States ammunition in its push to have the U.N. Security Council examine Tehran's nuclear activities.

Washington says Iran wants to enrich uranium to make weapons. Tehran says it is interested only in low-grade enriched uranium for nuclear power.

Iran announced suspension of enrichment last week, and the agency said it would police that commitment starting next week, ahead of the Nov. 25 IAEA board meeting.

Although the deal commits Iran to suspension only while a comprehensive aid agreement with the EU is finalized, the pledge reduced Washington's hopes of having the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency refer Iran to the Security Council when the board meets Thursday.

By opting to freeze — and not scrap — the program, Tehran has not dropped plans to run 50,000 centrifuges to enrich uranium for what it says will be the fuel requirements of a nuclear reactor to be finished next year.

Palestinians vow full details of Arafat death

BY LARA SUKHIAN

The Associated Press

PARIS — The Palestinian prime minister promised Friday to make public the cause of Yasser Arafat's death, as Palestinian leaders dispatched an emissary to Paris to pick up his medical records.

It was unclear when Nasser al-Kidwa, Arafat's nephew and also the Palestinian representative to the United Nations, would arrive in Paris. But he confirmed to The Associated Press that he would be traveling to France.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia told the AP there was no doubt that Arafat's medical records — which French officials have refused to release publicly — would come to light.

"When we get this report, we will study it and hear the opinions of the doctors," Qureia said by telephone, "and then we will inform

the Palestinian people with all the details about the health situation of President Arafat and what led to his death."

French Foreign and Defense Minister officials said Friday they had no information about the al-Kidwa's trip.

But in Ramallah, Palestinian Cabinet secretary Hassan Abu Libdeh had said Thursday that al-Kidwa was coming here to obtain medical records from Arafat's two-week stay in a Paris hospital where he died Nov. 11.

"We will get the report and the Palestinian Authority will take the necessary decisions, including informing the Palestinian people about the full details of the report," he said.

Officials here insist that French law prevents them from making Arafat's medical records public — but they can give them to family members, who can then reveal in-



Yasser Arafat

formation if they wish.

French officials have refused to make public the cause of death, opening the way for widespread rumors in the Arab world that Arafat was poisoned, despite official denials.

Associated Press Writer Danica Kirka in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

Berlusconi hints at possible resignation

The Associated Press

ROME — Premier Silvio Berlusconi indicated Friday he might resign if his coalition partners don't fully back him in Parliament on income tax cuts, Italian news agencies reported.

It was the first suggestion by Berlusconi that he might not serve his full five-year term. Elected in 2001, Berlusconi is at the helm of postwar Italy's longest-serving government.

The push through billions of dollars worth of income tax cuts, but he so far has failed to win united backing from within his conservative coalition allies has disagreed on how to achieve the tax breaks.

Asked what consequences there would be if the cuts were not passed, Berlusconi said, "As far as Forza Italia is concerned, there would certainly be a call for new elections," according to the ANSA and Apcom news agencies. Forza Italia is Berlusconi's party and the largest one in the ruling coalition.

If Berlusconi were to hand in his resignation, it would be to the Italian president to decide whether to accept it and call new elections or ask him or some other political leader to try to form a fresh coalition.

Promises for tax cuts were a centerpiece of Berlusconi's electoral platform in 2001. The next elections are scheduled for 2006.

Berlusconi, who was speaking during a state visit to Bratislava, Slovakia, also reportedly said that in the event of new elections, he would not seek support from any current allies who do not see a need for the tax cuts.

Changes to Radio Free Europe criticized

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Ronald Reagan used to be reached out to by Soviet and Cold War. Lech Walesa, the leader of Poland's Solidarity movement, likened it to the sun lighting the Earth. Rock band R.E.M. immortalized it in a cynical hit song.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is trying to win new listeners in Russia with a controversial overhaul that former dissidents and other critics contend will compromise its reputation and influence as a beacon of democracy.

"We're becoming just another bunch of blah-blah-blah on the air," Lev Rottman, a senior com-

mentator for the private U.S.-funded station, said Thursday. "They must be idiots to do something like this at this critical time in Russia."

Officials at RFE/RL's football field-sized newsroom, housed in Prague's communist-era parliament building say they simply want to modernize the programming and expand its reach.

The station's primary target is urban, employed, university-educated Russians ages 35 and up. Key changes include more call-in shows, a Web site overhaul to appeal to the 18-plus crowd, and a shift from longer evening programs on human rights and other issues to shorter, snappier spots aired throughout the day.

Nenad Pejic, RFE/RL's associ-

ate director of broadcasting, insists that Russian-language news and programs on human rights will remain a priority and that only the format — not the content — will change.

"It's about our survival, not our mission," he said. "Listeners in Moscow tell us our programming is a little old-fashioned, that we still sound like a dissident radio. We're just rebranding. We want to be a local radio with a global perspective."

But the proposed overhaul, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, also includes plans to cut staff and "move the center of gravity to Moscow" by dropping on-air references to Prague to give the impression that RFE/RL is a local Russian station rather than an outsider.

OutKast tops MTV Europe Awards

BY AIDAN LEWIS
The Associated Press

ROME — OutKast topped the winners list Thursday at the MTV Europe Music Awards, picking up three prizes, including best group.

The hip-hop stars from Atlanta also won best song and best video for their single "Hey Ya!"

"I hope you don't get tired of us. We only do what we do," said OutKast's Andre 3000, while thanking the crowd of around 6,000 at Rome's Tor di Valle hippodrome.

American artists dominated the awards, with R&B star Usher adding two further prizes — best album for "Confessions" and best male — to his long list of successes this year.

The ceremony saw live performances from a long list of stars, from rapper Eminem to Scottish rockers Franz Ferdinand.

Rapper Xzibit, who played host, was rolled onto the stage on a chariot by aides dressed in black leather gladiator costumes in front of a row of pseudo Roman columns.

The show kicked off with Eminem's "Just Lose It," a song that has sparked controversy because of a video with references to Michael Jackson's child molestation allegations.

He later won the award for best



Andre 3000 of OutKast, left, and Antwan Patton perform during the MTV Europe Music Awards in Rome on Thursday.

hip-hop along with co-members of the group D-12.

Usher sang a duet with fellow R&B star and friend Alicia Keys, who won best R&B.

The most original performance came from Gwen Stefani, who was lowered under a giant red clock onto the stage, where she danced on top of a table at a set of the Mad Hatter's tea party while wearing an Alice in Wonderland costume.

Other live performers included

Swedish punk band The Hives and L.A. rockers Maroon 5, who won the award for best new act. Black Eyed Peas won best pop and Britney Spears best female.

Xzibit said that the event was broadcast to a potential worldwide audience of some 1 billion people in 156 countries. "That includes at least 16 countries that George Bush isn't planning on invading," he quipped.

More than 12 million people had cast votes for the awards, Xzibit said.

Soldiers' deaths uncover secret Belgrade tunnel

The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — A probe into the mysterious shooting of two soldiers has revealed the existence beneath the Serbian capital of a secret communist-era network of tunnels and bunkers that could have served as recent hideouts for some of the world's most-wanted war crimes suspects.

The 2-square-mile complex was built deep inside a rocky hill in a residential area of Belgrade in the 1960s on the orders of communist strongman Josip Broz Tito. Until recently, its existence was known only to senior military commanders and politicians.

The secret was revealed during an investigation this month into the deaths of two soldiers who were guarding an entrance

to the complex. Both were found fatally shot.

Official explanations of the Oct. 5 incident have failed to satisfy the soldiers' families or a skeptical media, sparking speculation that fugitive Bosnian officers wanted by the United Nations for atrocities during the 1990s Balkans wars may have sought refuge in the complex.

The army initially said the two soldiers shot each other, then backtracked and reported that one had murdered the other before committing suicide. An independent commission is now investigating.

Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is believed to have convened his war Cabinet there in 1999 while NATO bombs fell on his country for 78 days to punish him for cracking down on independence-seeking ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

UN agency: Locusts could swarm the Middle East

ROME — A U.N. agency warned Friday that locust swarms could arrive in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, but not in massive waves.

The locust swarms originated in West Africa and traveled over Libya to Egypt. They appeared in Cairo earlier this week, and by Thursday the swarm had moved east along the Sinai Peninsula, about 30 miles from the Israeli border.

Locusts are present every year in Africa, but this year's swarms are especially large due to prolonged periods of heavy rainfall.

From The Associated Press

Message for our men and women in uniform...

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit www.stripes.com.

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...



Please visit the site at www.stripes.com and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!

STARS & STRIPES
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Diamonds not forever

CT MILFORD — Is the wedding still on?

That's one of the unanswered questions in the case of a man who police say staged a break-in at his own home so he could tell his fiancée's engagement ring.

George Rich, 43, was charged Tuesday with falsely reporting an incident and providing a false statement. He was released on a written promise to appear in Superior Court on Dec. 7.

Police said Rich made the couple's home look like a burglar had broken in and stolen jewelry, including the gold engagement ring with diamonds. Court documents show Rich pawned the items for \$5,000 at the Hock 'I To Me shop.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pets and profits

TX HOUSTON — Houston's animal shelter, which put 94 percent of its animals to death last year, has rejected an outside group's offer to help find homes for its dogs and cats.

The city's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care rejected the offer by Spay-Neuter Assistance Program because the adoptions would not be profitable.

John Nix, division manager of the city shelter, said the \$25 sterilization fee, a \$7.50 heartworm test and other costs might exceed the \$35 the city charges residents who adopt animals.

Spay-Neuter Assistance Program also said it would lend its truck to volunteers to take up to 30 animals to malls on Saturdays.

However, Nix said the city shelter does not have enough veterinarians to spay or neuter the 30 pets that would be sent out in the SNAP truck and can't afford to pay SNAP for the service.

Pounding out message

UT PROVO — Ben Cook's fingers can communicate at warp speed.

Cook, 17, used his cellular phone key pads to type a string of words with 160 characters in 57.75 seconds Tuesday, bidding to become the world's text-messaging king.

The message was "The razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality, they seldom attack a human."

Guinness lists the previous record typing the same words at 67 seconds.

Still smoking

IA DES MOINES — Iowa ranks in the middle of states with the number of adults who smoke, according to a government survey. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says Iowa ranked 24th in the USA with 21.7 percent of adults reporting they smoked.

Nationally, 22.1 percent of adults smoke. Although the 2003 figures showed a reduction in the number of men who smoke, CDC officials say the numbers aren't different enough to declare a definite trend.

Condors multiply

OR PORTLAND — The 12 endangered California condors at the Oregon Zoo have started to multiply since arriving here a year ago this week. One pair has produced two healthy chicks. Already, adult males are begin-

ning to court the females, signaling the start of another breeding season. Their numbers had dipped to just 22 known birds by 1982. A captive breeding program started in 1987 as a last-ditch method to help condors survive.

Accidental drowning

NH CONCORD — The St. Paul's School student who drowned in 4 feet of water in the school's newly opened pool may have been trying to see how long he could hold his breath and swim underwater, police said.

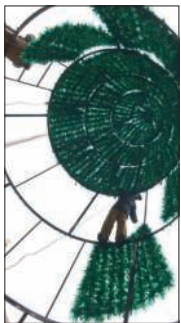
Autopsy results released Tuesday show Clifford R. Nyquist, 15, died from "complications of near drowning." The autopsy eliminated any underlying medical condition, such as a heart attack, aneurysm or blow to the head, Concord Police Lt. Walter Carroll said. It confirms the 15-year-old's death on Nov. 7 was accidental.

Much bigger payout

FL TAMPA — After being "lost" for 60 years in the vaults of Florida's Ringling Museum of Art, an 1887 oil painting sold at a Sotheby's auction in New York for \$1.2 million.

That's a million more than its value had been estimated.

The bidding for the oil-on-canvas "Infant Malade" by Venezuelan artist Arturo Michelena, was won by an anonymous buyer, a Sotheby's spokeswoman said Tuesday.



Trimming the tree

Johnny White, bottom, and Josh Richert, top left, of the Pontiac, Mich., grounds maintenance department, work on the frame of the city's 45-foot-tall holiday tree outside City Hall.

day. Pre-sale estimates valued the painting at \$150,000-\$200,000, but it sold for \$1,352,000. That's \$1,202,000 for the painting itself, plus \$150,000 for Sotheby's premium.

Pioneering Sarasota developer Owen Burns bought the painting from Caroline Astor's collection during a famous sale in New York in 1926, but Burns' family lost track of it after his death.

Car tax repealed

IL KANKAKEE — The City Council decided it no longer needed the \$370,000 generated by the city's \$35 annual vehicle tax and voted unanimously to repeal it. The tax took the form of stickers required for residents' vehicles. The mayor sought the repeal after comparing current expenses and revenue with past audits and budgets and finding city sales tax revenue had been growing.

'Leaf rage' strikes

CT STAMFORD — When city employees refused to haul away his raked leaves, Michael Peters blew up. And his neighbor got him arrested for what police describe as "leaf rage."

Peters, 67, of North Stamford, was charged with breach of peace, a misdemeanor, after accusing municipal workers who told him they collected leaves only on the street, not those on his right of way, where his were stacked.

"He grabbed my jacket and said, 'You're not going anywhere,'" operations Supervisor Robert Garbert said of Peters. "The guy was spitting and swearing — it was the most disgusting scene I've ever seen."

Peters admitted he lost his cool, frustrated by more than three decades of being ignored by the town at leaf time.

Crash landing

CO LYONS — A 17-year-old dying student taking his first lesson crash-landed a single-engine plane, authorities said.

Neither Benjamin Dötterweich nor his instructor, Ralse Sutcliff, was injured in the crash, said Laura McConnell, of the Lyons Fire Protection District. The two used a cell phone to help lead a rescue team to their location, McConnell said. Both were able to walk out of the rocky terrain on their own, she said. Dötterweich had won the lessons after entering a contest at his high school.

Impersonating IRS agent

CA OAKLAND — A judge sentenced an Oakland woman to five months in prison for impersonating an Internal Revenue Service agent and cheating someone out of \$9,300 under the guise of handling a tax audit.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken also ordered Christine Mele Felise, 45, to serve five months of home detention while under electronic monitoring. Felise pleaded guilty June 21 to three counts of impersonating a government official.

She claimed to be an IRS auditor and falsely claimed to a woman that the tax agency had assessed her \$16,762 in federal and state income taxes, authorities said. In September, Felise received more than \$9,000 from the woman to cover the taxes supposedly owed, authorities said.



Hang in there
playing after school.

Elihan Linder, left, and Abby Booth, both 7, hang from a tree in Townsend, Va., while



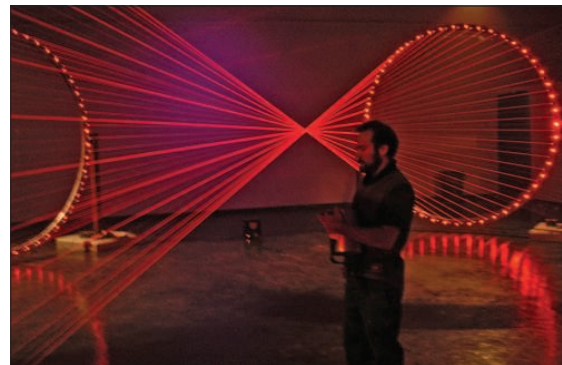
Icy damage

Allstate Insurance agent Ed Randolph, left, and Kim Davidson inspect the damage on a Ford Explorer that slid off an icy road and crashed into the back yard of Davidson's home in Kodiak, Ak.



Outta my way!

A motorist comes to a complete stop on Route 88 in Holiday, W.Va., as a deer crosses the road.



Laser show At the University of Florida, Matt Schreiber, an artist from Miami, readies his laser-based artwork, "The Force," in the University Gallery in Gainesville, Fla.



Praising the roof

Tom Hopkins works on a new roof at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, IA.



Tasty treat

Washington, D.C.

Kojo, a baby great ape, feeds on a pumpkin during the annual pumpkin squash at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.



Sunset surf

From left, Jennifer Berk, Alex Kasa and Misha Hanna Betsh head for the surf at sunset in Del Mar, Calif.

Trying to save libraries

CA SALINAS — The City Council in John Steinbeck's hometown is making a last-ditch effort to save at least one of its three public libraries. All are set to close by summer because voters rejected two tax measures. The council voted to form a library committee and postpone further cuts to the 2005-06 budget until mid-December to allow time to explore other means of fund-raising.

Drivers to get E-Z Pass

ME PORTLAND — The Maine Turnpike will convert on Feb. 1 from Transpass to E-Z Pass, the electronic toll collection system used along much of the eastern seaboard.

Under the change, Maine motorists will be able to breeze through toll plazas in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Drivers from those states will be able to do the same in Maine, helping to reduce congestion, particularly in summer when traffic is at its peak.

More than 80,000 Transpass users in Maine will be sent forms this week to enroll in the new system. Truckers with existing accounts received enrollment information last month.

Snow warnings

MN ST. PAUL — St. Paul says it will notify residents by telephone when there's a snow emergency so they can get their cars off the street. Public Works officials say the phone notification will save money, since the city can plow streets quicker, better and a lot cheaper if the streets have no cars. The city is contracting with a firm that uses commercially available telephone lists to reach an estimated 85 percent of city residences. The public can add unlimited numbers or cell phone numbers to the database by following instructions on the city's Web site.

Cruel punishment

VA FREDERICKSBURG — A woman who forced her son to rake leaves in the nude as punishment for misbehaving in school has pleaded guilty to a child cruelty charge.

However, the 47-year-old mother might avoid a felony record.

Under an agreement worked out by the prosecution and defense, Fredericksburg Circuit Court Judge John W. Scott Jr. on Monday deferred the case to March 3.

At that time, Scott could impose the guilty plea, find the woman guilty of a lesser charge or continue the case to another date.

Defense attorney Beverly Haney said the woman has no criminal record and does not deserve a felony conviction.

Plan to help home buyers

AZ TUCSON — The Pima County supervisors approved a plan to create a trust fund to help low-income home buyers.

The fund will be financed largely by local home builders. Contributions to the fund won't be required but will be encouraged when builders seek rezoning or plan approvals for developments.

Indians want bigger role

MT HELENA — Tribal leaders are encouraging Gov.-elect Brian Schweitzer to give American Indians greater roles in state government as his office comes under Democratic control for the first time in 16 years. Some want the job of Indian affairs coordinator elevated to a Cabinet position. Other tribal leaders propose a new Department of Indian Affairs.

Man cashes in pennies

OH LYNDHURST — If a penny saved is a penny earned, then Eugene Sukie earned \$104,880.13 in his three-plus decades of thriftiness.

Over the years, Eugene Sukie, a retired glass plant supervisor, rolled the pennies in wrappers and stored them in 575 cigar boxes organized by year and mint. He had them counted — by a machine, of course.

The pennies, over one million of them and weighing 3½ tons, were trucked from Sukie's home in Barberton to a coins-to-cash machine at a suburban Cleveland supermarket.

Sukie, 78, was worried that he and his wife were getting old and eventually wouldn't be able to get the pennies out of their basement.

Coinstar Inc., of Bellevue, Wash., which operates coin-counting machines, charged Sukie an 8.9 percent service charge, or \$932.73, but paid him \$1,500 for the right to tell his story.

That means that, in all, Sukie pocketed more than \$11,000.

Food fight suspension

TN MEMPHIS — A cafeteria food fight on "meat loaf day" led to the suspension of the entire eighth-grade class at a Memphis school.

The students were suspended after refusing to clean up the mess they caused.

The food fight broke out at Geeter Middle School, which has 637 students in grades six through eight. Meat loaf and chicken were on the menu.

Principal Jada Meeks suspended students who were in the cafeteria during the fight, meaning the youngsters' parents must meet with school officials before the children can return to class.

The cause of the disturbance was not immediately known. No serious injuries were reported.

More than just news

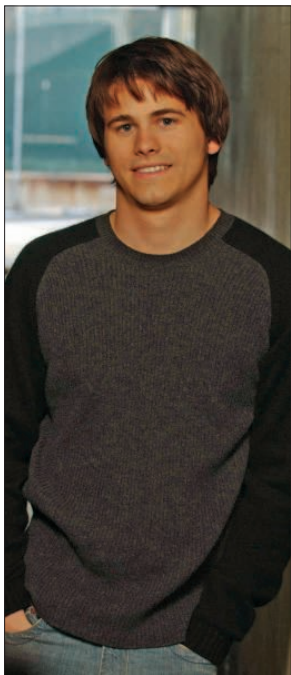
OH CLEVELAND — A television news anchor appeared on the air nude in a first-person report about an artist's photographs, drawing a record number of viewers for the time slot, the station said.

Sharon Reed was one of hundreds of people who participated in Spencer Tunick's nude photo installation in Cleveland in June. Her report, shown on the 11 p.m. newscast on WOIO-TV, showed far away angles of her nude and some closer seminu shots, as well as other participants.

The station aired advisories before the piece, and FCC spokeswoman Janice Wiss on Wednesday said WOIO followed commission rules that prohibit indecent material from being aired on broadcast television from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES



SHNS

Jason Ritter, a product of a family of actors, now stars in the drama series "Joan of Arcadia." Not only has this 24-year-old entered the realm of television but he also starred in his first feature film, "Raise Your Voice."

Actress should enter real estate business

Local authorities have approved construction of 42 new houses next to a luxury home owned by Catherine Zeta-Jones.

The movie star and her husband, actor Michael Douglas, hadn't opposed construction of the houses on a former trailer park site in Mumbles, the seaside suburb of Swansea, Wales, where Zeta-Jones grew up.

Some residents had objected to the project, claiming it would eat into open countryside and generate too much traffic. But planners on the Swansea council voted to allow developer Taylor Woodrow to go ahead with construction.

Some have speculated the three- and four-bedroom homes will fetch top prices because of the proximity to the famous couple, who also have homes in Los Angeles, Bermuda, Majorca, Manhattan and Aspen, Colo.

Cartoonist to receive award

"Doonesbury" creator Garry Trudeau will receive the Freedom of Speech Award from the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in February.

Comedian Jim Carrey, director Christopher Guest and the writers of The Harvard Lampoon also will be honored at the festival, scheduled for Feb. 9-13, it was announced. The Freedom of Speech Award acknowledges artists



Zeta-Jones

who speak out on social issues despite challenges.

"Garry's work is more relevant than ever, even though it's been around for more than 20 years," said festival director Craig Minnassian. "He's taken a stand with his art. It's a nice generational look at the comic strip."

The festival also will examine "comic book culture" through channels such as the online literary journal McSweeney's and reality TV shows.

"Even if reality TV was a fad, it opened the door to saying that content can come from anywhere," Minnassian said.

"That's the true of comedy content coming from independent films, graphic novels and cartoons. I just don't think there's any place you can't afford to look," he said.

Not too good for television

Glenn Close says her first role as a regular on a TV show "will be kind of a great adventure" — including the commute to Hollywood.

Close, who lives in Westchester County, N.Y., and has a teenage daughter, said that playing a police captain in FX's "The Shield" was "the last thing I thought I'd be doing, but they were very persuasive. Other than the fact that I have to commute back and forth, I'm looking forward to it."

"This will be an unusual balance, and I think they're going to be smart about scheduling me so I can have a regular chunk of time at home," said the actress, best known for movies



Close

Young actor follows in father's footsteps

The late John Ritter's son steps out of the shadows and into Hollywood

BY DAVE MASON
Ventura County Star

LOS ANGELES — Outside where it was at least 90 degrees, a grandstand full of kids from Boys & Girls Clubs kept cheering.

Jason Ritter, a regular on CBS' "Joan of Arcadia" and a co-star with Hilary Duff in the movie "Raise Your Voice," had just been out there, taking part in a game of giant pin bowling at Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play event. Other stars had just finished playing volleyball — while wearing boxing gloves.

As the games aired live for the cable network's East Coast feed, Ritter took a break in the action to talk about the film and Duff, who was hosting the Nickelodeon event.

"People should see it," Ritter said. "It's about fulfilling your dream in a very realistic way."

Ritter, 24, the son of actress Nancy Morgan and the late John Ritter, said success for Duff's character doesn't come magically, but she succeeds through perseverance.

In some ways, the character's career mirrors that of Duff, who became a star on Disney Channel's "Lizzie McGuire" and went on to become a musical success.

"I think there are some aspects of her life in it, she's a young girl with a great voice fulfilling her dream," Ritter said.

He plays Paul, the brother of Duff's character, who encourages her to attend a music school and pursue her dream of a career.

"Every person who has talent needs someone who believes in them," Ritter said.

In Ritter's case, he got that support from his parents.

He said he was happy his father got nominated for an Emmy for "8 Simple Rules." But he acknowledged feeling relieved that the award for lead actor in a comedy series wound up going to "Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer.

"It would have been a nice, great moment, but it would

have made something that's very private [his father's sudden death] that much more public," Ritter said. "I think it was enough, what Kelsey said as he acknowledged him [during the acceptance speech]."

Dressed in a tux and baseball cap, Ritter attended the Emmys in support of his father and his Emmy-nominated CBS series. It was the young Ritter's first time at the awards.

Ritter said he likes the current story line on "Joan of Arcadia," in which the family of the drunken driver in the accident that paralyzed Ritter's character, Kevin Girardi, uses the Girardi family.

The driver's family contends that the sober Kevin could see that he was drunk and should have taken the car keys from him. Kevin was a passenger.

Responsibility has become an interesting aspect of the law, Ritter said.

"A burglar can sue someone if he breaks into their home and a skylight falls on

his head," he said. "It's human to blame each other, but we have to take responsibility for our actions."

He added: "My parents always told me that no matter where you are, don't get into a car with a drunk driver. They said, 'Call us [for a ride]. You won't get into trouble.'"

Ritter and friend Billy Aaron Brown, who has guest-starred on "8 Simple Rules," are promoting a gala raising funds for the Huntington's Disease Society of America, a nonprofit group that helps people affected by the disease that causes degeneration of brain cells.

"[Brown's] family and my girlfriend's family have suffered from Huntington's disease," said Ritter, whose girlfriend is Scottish-born actress Marianna Palka, 23.

When he isn't acting, Ritter indulges in a hobby not too far from his line of work: "One of my friends and I will get a digital camera and make a movie," he said. "We had a movie about a man in search of his beard."

Jason Ritter
Actor

such as "Fatal Attraction" and "The Big Chill."

Filmmaker's legal battles continue

A lawyer for Roman Polanski said the filmmaker was being denied justice because he isn't allowed to use a magazine for defamation in a British court while remaining in France.

The Polish-born director, who has lived in France since fleeing child-sex charges in the United States in 1978, is seeking to sue Vanity Fair over a 2002 article that accused him of seducing a woman while on the way to the funeral of his wife Sharon Tate, who was brutally murdered.

By Charles Manson's followers in Los Angeles in 1969.

Polanski, 71, wants to testify by video link because he fears being deported to the United States, with which Britain has an extradition treaty.

Last year, a lower court judge ruled Polanski could give evidence by video link. But after an appeal by Vanity Fair publisher Conde Nast, the Court of Appeal said he had to appear in person, ruling that justice "is just a Eurostar journey away."

Polanski's lawyer, Richard Spearman, told the House of Lords, Britain's highest court of appeal, that the courts were preventing Polanski from suing for defamation because he was a fugitive from U.S. justice.

Stories and photos from wire services



Polanski



A map of the United States showing climate zones and weather fronts. The map is divided into regions labeled with temperature ranges (e.g., 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s) and climate types (e.g., 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s). A legend at the bottom identifies the climate types: Cold, Warm, Stationary, and Fronts. The map also includes a scale bar and a compass rose.

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Legend:

- Climate Types: Cold, Warm, Stationary
- Fronts: Cold, Warm, Stationary
- Weather Icons: Sun, Clouds, Rain, Snow, Ice, Fog, Wind, Storm, Tornado, Hurricane, Thunderstorm, Clear, Partly Cloudy, Cloudy

Check our Relocation Guide
every Saturday to find
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES®
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Horoscope

This is the last full day of the sun in Scorpio, as tomorrow ushers in a fiery Sagittarius solar influence. The Pleiades moon persuades us to contemplate what we've taken from the past few weeks. Probably, it will be difficult to articulate the exact lessons, but it's enough to know that awareness has been heightened and we're not the same.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 20) It's romance galore this year! You're creating magic between you and people you're attracted to. The holiday season features a choice — you could break a heart, if you're not careful! A relationship with someone younger helps finances. Keep up on your socks, and you're soaking away cash for travel and upgrades in April.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You can be extraordinarily candid — a quality that will make you both popular and controversial. Nobody needs to ask, "Where's the party?" They can clearly see that the party is where you are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You'll be challenged when social contact is not what you expected. You're a sympathetic listener, but with extremely needy and complex people, you struggle to find a foothold. Ultimately, your compassion carries you through.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You practically buzz with the urge to throw a nervous tantrum, but you can channel the energy usefully into an off-the-wall project. You're particularly lucky when you use a new medium to express yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You're sensitive enough to pick up on the emotional nuances of a situation but tart enough to wise-crack about it. Why must everyone be so touchy? At least someone will think you're funny.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

If this day were a color, it would be electric pink. Events are altogether sweet and unnatural. Someone you counted among the lost souls will show

up. You've a choice about how deeply you want to engage this person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Someone with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of enthusiasm could get on your nerves. What good is raw energy unless it's focused toward a productive end? Well, that's where you come in. Step right up, and take over.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Relationships are in transition. If you let things get romantic, they will. The only thing stopping the flow of tender emotions is your resistance to them. Figure out what it will take for you to trust and open up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're demure and giggly — so unlike you, but it's fun to try a different approach. Such experimentation could land you in a new location. It's eye opening to see where people around you are from and how they live.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Much is exchanged in the spirit of friendliness and good manners. Beware of the word "try." People who say they will, won't. Be willing to make a commitment either way instead of "trying."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You remain objective and not too serious. So it's hard to relate to people who won't admit what they don't want to admit — even if you have videotaped proof. Continue to model warmth and forgiveness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're in the mood for a little unabashed consumerism. The rush that comes from purchasing a kind of wonder product or hope-in-a-bottle is a guilty pleasure! Appreciate those who tolerate your eccentricities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

What a jewel you are! Your hours are dedicated to personal betterment and feeling swell. You're somewhat of a domestic super-hero, too. You have the skill to handle now what would potentially be hazardous later.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



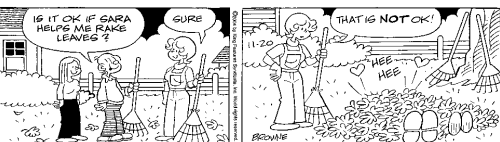
Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



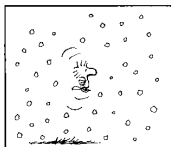
Red Rover



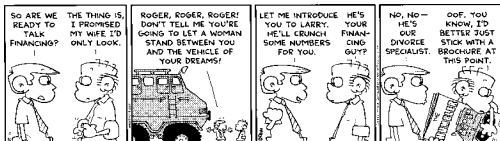
Better or Worse



Peanuts



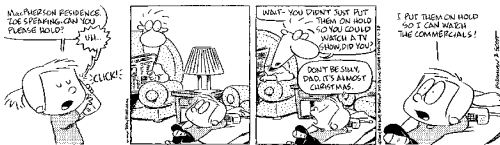
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



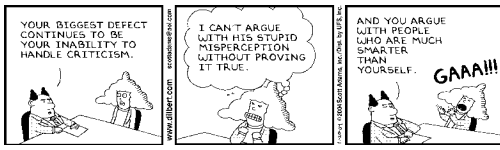
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



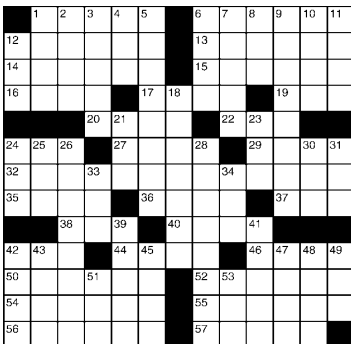
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Suggest
- 6 Get back at
- 12 Om, e.g.
- 13 City of India
- 14 Dormant
- 15 Hymnbook
- 16 Prayer
- 17 Black, in verse
- 19 Mag. staffers
- 20 Art's art
- 22 Pantheon member
- 24 Filch
- 27 Options list
- 29 Tie
- 32 News-making
- 34 2004 event
- 35 Concept
- 36 Recognize
- 37 JFK info
- 38 Pump up the volume
- 40 Tarzan's posse
- 42 Moment
- 44 Basilica section
- 46 Criterion
- 50 Emit carbon dioxide
- 52 Lo mein ingredient
- 54 Pinnacles
- 55 Had coming
- 56 Cuadrilla member
- 57 Wood nymph

Down

- 1 "Que —?" lute
- 2 Siblingless
- 3 Lieu
- 30 Part of GNP
- 4 Rage
- 5 CD player's ancestor
- 6 Bullets
- 7 In competition
- 8 Ar follower
- 9 Plunge
- 10 Alumnus
- 11 Slithery group
- 12 More, to Manuel
- 18 Woody Allen movie
- 21 Parisian pal
- 23 Kyoto
- 25 Actor
- 27 Author Ferber
- 48 Coaster
- 49 Bill's co-adventurer
- 51 Give the heave-ho
- 53 Obey the coxswain

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-20

CRYPTOQUIP

N U F Z Z J U M H Z Q J H S
G M U N E B N B E U S H S N U S N T H X
T P H Q S U T J F X G Y M X H Y M X M G

H E Q H Z P N S N H Q S N U S
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WE USED TO PRODUCE TOOTH PASTE CONTAINERS, BUT OUR BUSINESS WENT DOWN THE TUBES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

Young girls: Use caution on Web

Dear Abby: I am deeply in love with a man who is handsome, smart and loving. We are engaged and happy together. The problem? We met on the Internet.

Abby, he thinks I am 26, but I'm not. Everything I've said to him has been a lie. I am really 12. I have tried to tell him the truth, but he doesn't believe me or thinks I'm joking. I try to break up with him, but we both can't say goodbye forever. I am 100 percent sure it's love.

He is planning to visit me in January. He says we will get married and have a nice future together. No one knows about this, so I need your help. What do I do now? How do I let go?

—Lost in Love in Las Vegas

Dear Lost in Love: You have been lying on the Internet.

What makes you think that he hasn't been lying, too? Has it occurred to you that this man

who "won't let go" could be a child molester in his 40s or 50s? What do you plan to do when he shows up? If you become further involved, he could be arrested! For your safety, I urge you to tell your parents what has been going on. You have gotten your

self in over your head, and you may need more adult intervention than this columnist to get you out of the pit you have dug for yourself. Please talk to your parents. TODAY!

Dear Abby: I have a 14-year-old son, "Adam," whose parental grandmother.

"Bryna," is making life difficult for him. He has acne, for which he's seeing a dermatologist. He also needs braces, and I'm working on that as well.

When Adam goes to visit Grandma Bryna, he gets put-down after put-down. She "comments" about his acne and

also his teeth.

I am no longer married to her son (he's deceased), and while we were married, we all got pretty much the same treatment. I don't want to sever ties with Bryna, as Adam still wants that connection with his dad. My daughter, who is older, refuses to have anything more to do with her.

When Bryna says these things to my son, she instructs him to say anything about it to me. I don't want her to accuse him of ratting her out. I am ready to tell her not to contact us again. Should I take such a drastic step and cut off all ties with her?

—Frustrated in California

Dear Frustrated: Why not? The woman is spreading poison.

If you had poison oak in your garden, wouldn't you remove it?

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email to dearabby@earthlink.net or write to: <http://www.foxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RUETT

CANKK

DELGEP

GARUJA

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www.jumble.com

Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: FLAKE CATCH POMADE LAVISH
Answer: The miser sneaked into the ice rink because he was — A CHEAP SKATE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

'Giving' in-laws a bit much to take

Dear Annie: I am a married mother of a 3-year-old boy. He is the only grandchild on either side of the family. My problem is with my mother-in-law, a widow on a fixed income, and my sister-in-law, who is married but has no children.

My in-laws like to control everything. When my own sister planned a baby shower for me, my sister-in-law informed me that she would have no part of it because it was "too early." I was seven months' pregnant at the time. The morning of the shower, my mother-in-law told my husband she would not attend because she did not receive a formal invitation, even though we had asked her verbally. I ended up with two showers, one given by my sister and a larger one by my in-laws.

My son's birthday is rapidly approaching, and I am dreading it.

I have repeatedly asked my in-laws to restrict the number of gifts they buy my son, but they

say this is "what they're supposed to do." My child is turning into a greedy monster, and I don't know how to handle it.

—Spoiled in Sayreville, N.J.

Dear Spoiled: You cannot change your in-laws' behavior without their cooperation. Instead, thank them graciously for the gifts,

allow your son to have one or two, and put the rest away. Keep them in a closet for later, or let your son select some to donate to a hospital or shelter. And tell your husband to back you up.

Dear Annie: I'm responding to "Puzzled in California," who complained that she reclined her airline seat and the passenger behind her kept pushing it.

On a recent flight, the man in front of me reclined his seat

futly. His head was inches from my face, and my legs were pinned

under him. I have hip problems and had to shift frequently, but doing so meant jostling him. The man angrily demanded that I stop kicking his seat.

—Squished

Dear Squished: This one struck a nerve with our readers. Read on.

From N.C.: If the person behind me doesn't want my head in his lap, he should ask for an exit row seat and not expect me to sit upright for the duration of the flight.

Tallahassee, Fla.: I am 6 feet 4 inches, and my knees touch the back of the seat in front of me. When that person reclines, it's a painful experience. The airlines could solve the problem by adjusting the seats to recline only one short notch.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



11-20
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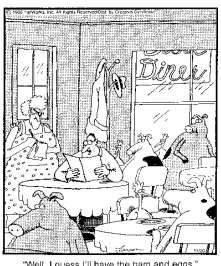
"Of course it is. You ate part of yours."



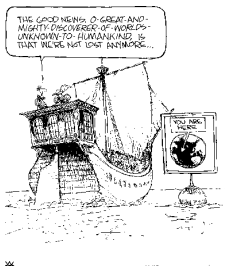
Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson
The Far Side



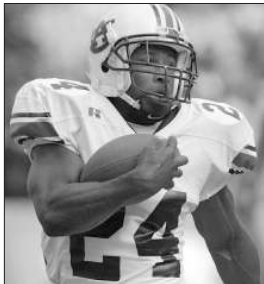
Non Sequitur



"OKAY, YOU CAN GO BACK TO ARGUING. I WANTED TO BE SURE IT WASN'T ABOUT ME."

"Well, I guess I'll have the ham and eggs."

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Auburn's Carnell Williams ranks third in the SEC in rushing (963 yards) and fourth in scoring (66 points).



Michigan senior Braylon Edwards has five 100-yard receiving games this season.

High stakes in rivalry week

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

There's no better way to salvage a disappointing season than ruing your archrivals' grand plans.

Alabama, Ohio State, BYU and Stanford have that opportunity Saturday.

Auburn (10-0), tied for second in the AP rankings, brings national title hopes into the Iron Bowl against Alabama.

"It's good that we're playing this game, because it's so important to everybody," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said. "You can forget all about the records."

"This game means so much to so many people — families, brothers, sisters — we'll get their full attention."

Alabama (6-4) has the No. 2 total defense in the nation and the top rushing offense in the Southeastern Conference. But the Crimson Tide have been hampered by season-ending injuries to quarterback Brodie Croyle and tailback Ray McCloud Jr. Michigan has basically left Alabama with a one-dimensional offense, a major problem against an Auburn defense that ranks No. 1 in the country in points allowed (9.3 per game).

In the Big Ten's most heated rivalry, No. 7 Michigan (9-1) will be trying to lock up a second straight conference title and trip to the Rose Bowl against an Ohio State team that has tumbled after two straight double-digit win seasons and a national title in 2002.

"It's going to be a tough, physical battle," Michigan offensive lineman David Baas said. "It is every single year, no matter the record, or problems schools are having. It is Ohio State vs. Michigan. It is The game."

On the field, the Buckeyes (6-4, 3-4) are in danger of their first losing Big Ten record since 1999. Offer the field, coach Jim Tressell and athletic director Andy Geiger have been defending the program against former Buckeyes star Maurice Clarett's accusations of cheating.

Fifth-ranked Utah (10-0) is trying to become the first team from non-BCS conference to earn a BCS bowl bid. A win over rival BYU (5-5) would all but send a trip to one of the \$14 million games, but loss Utah to the Liberty Bowl as Mountain West

champs, where they'd get a check for \$1.35 million. The Cougars, meanwhile, are just trying to become eligible for any bowl.

Then there's the Big Game between California (8-1) and Stanford (4-6) at the fourth-ranked Golden Bears are trying to reach the Rose Bowl for the first time in 46 years, while their Bay Area rivals are trying to break a four-game losing streak.

The picks:

No. 2 Auburn (minus 10) at Alabama: Tigers have won two straight in Tuscaloosa... **AUBURN 27-6.**

No. 2 Oklahoma (minus 34½) at Baylor: Sooners can't afford even slight slip... **OKLAHOMA 52-14.**

Stanford (plus 24) at No. 4 California: Cal has won two straight in Big Game... **CAL 44-17.**

BYU (plus 21½) at No. 5 Utah: Fiesta time in Salt Lake City... as in Fiesta Bowl for Utah... **UTAH 38-24.**

No. 7 Michigan (minus 5½) at Ohio State: Buckeyes middle Big Ten race... **OHIO STATE 22-20.**

No. 8 Louisville (minus 21) at Houston: Cardinals won 66-45 last season... **LOUISVILLE 55-28.**

No. 9 Wisconsin (plus 3) at No. 17 Iowa: Hawkeyes send Michigan to Rose Bowl... **IOWA 17-16.**

Florida (plus 7) at No. 10 Florida State: Gators haven't won in Tallahassee since 1986... **FLORIDA STATE 27-23.**

Wake Forest (plus 18½) at No. 12 Miami: ACC title still possible for Hurricanes... **MIAMI 38-17.**

Louisiana Tech (plus 24) at No. 13 Boise State: Broncos' defense plays better on Smurf Turf... **BOISE STATE 48-20.**

Mississippi (plus 20½) at No. 14 LSU: Tigers enjoy Cotton Bowl bid... **LSU 28-13.**

No. 15 Tennessee (minus 13) at Vanderbilt: Toss have won 21 straight against Commodores... **TENNESSEE 24-14.**

No. 18 Virginia (minus 6) at Georgia Tech: Cavs 7-0 against teams not from Florida... **VIRGINIA 26-14.**

No. 19 Boston College (minus 14) at Temple: Eagles win two wins away from BCS bid... **BOSTON COLLEGE 38-20.**

SMU (plus 21) at No. 24 UTEP: Defense has led Mavs' turnaround... **UTEP 34-10.**

Last week: 165-143 (straight); 104-81 (vs. points). Season: 165-144 (straight); 104-82 (vs. points).



Alex Smith will try to help Utah beat BYU and get into a BCS bowl.



QB Aaron Rodgers aims to end Cal's 46-year Rose Bowl drought.



FSU's Lorenzo Booker will lead Florida's defense on Saturday.

College football schedule/statistics

Weekend schedule

Saturday	Sunday
Buffalo (2-8) at Connecticut (5-4)	Wake Forest (4-5) at Duke (2-8)
Penn (7-2) at Cornell (4-3)	South Carolina (5-4) at Clemson (5-5)
Bucknell (6-4) at Duquesne (7-2)	Delaware St. (7-3) at Howard (6-4)
Colgate (6-4) at Fordham (5-5)	W. Carolina (4-6) at The Citadel (2-7)
Hofstra (5-5) at Massachusetts (5-5)	Tennessee (7-2) at Vanderbilt (2-8)
Michigan St. (5-5) at Penn State (5-5)	Virginia (7-2) at Georgia Tech (5-3)
Boston College (7-2) at Temple (2-8)	Drake (0-2) at Morehead St. (6-5)
Columbia (1-8) at Brown (4-3)	Wake Forest (7-2) at Wake (0-10)
Holy Cross (2-8) at Georgetown, D.C. (3-7)	Richmond (0-2) at William & Mary (8-2)
Yale (5-4) at Harvard (9-1)	Hampton (7-3) at Savannah St. (4-6)
Lehigh (9-1) at Lafayette (7-3)	Ill. (3-7) at Liberty (5-5)
Rhode Island (4-4) at Northeastern (4-6)	Charlotte (2-8) at Eastern Michigan (2-7)
Villanova (4-6) at Delaware (7-3)	Georgia Tech (7-2) at Miami (2-8)
New Hampshire (9-2) at Maine (5-5)	Dartmouth (1-8) at Princeton (4-3)
James Madison (8-2) at Towson (2-7)	Rutgers (4-5) at Navy (7-2)

SOUTH
North Carolina (5-5) at Duke (2-8)
South Carolina (5-4) at Clemson (5-5)
Delaware St. (7-3) at Howard (6-4)
W. Carolina (4-6) at The Citadel (2-7)
Tennessee (7-2) at Vanderbilt (2-8)
Virginia (7-2) at Georgia Tech (5-3)
Drake (0-2) at Morehead St. (6-5)
Wake Forest (7-2) at Wake (0-10)
Richmond (0-2) at William & Mary (8-2)
Hampton (7-3) at Savannah St. (4-6)
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Drake (0-2) at Morehead St. (6-5)
Wake Forest (7-2) at Wake (0-10)
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Drake (0-2) at Morehead St. (6-5)
Wake Forest (7-2) at Wake (0-10)
Richmond (0-2) at William & Mary (8-2)
Hampton (7-3) at Savannah St. (4-6)
Ill. (3-7) at Liberty (5-5)
Charlotte (2-8) at Eastern Michigan (2-7)
Georgia Tech (7-2) at Miami (2-8)
Dartmouth (1-8) at Princeton (4-3)
Rutgers (4-5) at Navy (7-2)

Passing offense

Team	Att	Yds	Tds	Pct
Texas Tech	545	395	29.5	91.5
Bowling Green	368	257	32.7	71.7
Toledo	345	287	30.7	70.7
Hawaii	444	252	27.3	39.3
San Diego	345	234	30.2	66.2
Purdue	383	239	28.3	28.3
Oregon	345	234	28.3	28.3
Rutgers	381	243	26.0	26.0
Lehigh	354	234	26.0	26.0
Miami (Ohio)	354	234	26.0	26.0
Connecticut	354	234	26.0	26.0
Brighton Young	381	243	26.0	26.0
Georgia	354	234	26.0	26.0
Midle Tenn.	354	234	26.0	26.0
Memphis	354	234	26.0	26.0
Fla. Atlantic	354	234	26.0	26.0
Nevada	354	234	26.0	26.0

Total defense

Team	Plays	Yds	Pct
North Carolina St.	579	229	72.7
LSU	569	248	74.7
Florida St.	641	260	22.0
Alabama	640	264	26.4
Wisconsin	615	273	27.3
Virginia Tech	569	289	28.9
Penn St.	540	292	28.0
Georgia	540	294	29.4
Georgia Tech	540	294	29.4
Troy	540	294	29.4
Troy	540	294	29.4
Troy	540	294	29.4
Troy	540	294	29.4
Troy	540	294	29.4
Troy	540	294	29.4

Rushing defense

Team	Plays	Yds	Pct
Florida St.	331	619	61.9
South Carolina	292	625	62.5
Boise St.	292	625	62.5
Troy	292	625	62.5
Nebraska	292	625	62.5
Troy	292	625	62.5
Notre Dame	292	625	62.5
Purdue	292	625	62.5
LSU	292	625	62.5
Virginia Tech	292	625	62.5
Oklahoma	292	625	62.5
Georgia Tech	292	625	62.5
Georgia Tech	292	625	62.5
Marshall	292	625	62.5
Marshall	292	625	62.5
Marshall	292	625	62.5

Passing defense

Team	Att	Yds	Tds	Pct
Alabama	205	1058	8	87.45
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
North Carolina St.	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05
South Carolina	244	1088	12	86.05

Div. I-A individual statistics

Team	Att	Yds	Tds	Pct
Thomas, La. Tech	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Arrington, Cal	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9

Rushing

Team	Att	Yds	Tds	Pct
Thomas, La. Tech	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Arrington, Cal	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9

Passing

Team	Att	Yds	Tds	Pct
Thomas, La. Tech	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Arrington, Cal	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9

Receiving

Team	Att	Yds	Tds	Pct
Thomas, La. Tech	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Arrington, Cal	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251	1646	6	189.9
Benison, Texas	251			

Holtz out, Sourrier in at South Carolina

Former Notre Dame coach to retire; reports say ex-Florida coach will take over

By PETE IACOBELLI

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Lou Holtz wanted his South Carolina players to focus on their game against Clemson. They suddenly have a lot more on their minds.

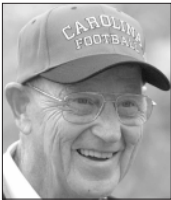
Holtz will retire as coach of South Carolina after the season. The Associated Press learned Thursday night, apparently paving the way for Steve Spurrier to replace him.

Holtz told his players before the team's final regular-season practice, according to a source close to the program who spoke on condition of anonymity. All season, the 67-year-old Holtz said he was worn out, and even said Spurrier would be a good choice to succeed him.

On Wednesday, South Carolina cornerback Fred Bennett said Holtz promised the players he would tell them first when he decided about next year. "So I respect him for that," Bennett said.

A report in The Tennessean of Nashville had Spurrier taking over and the announcement coming next week. Other reports said Spurrier and South Carolina agreed to a contract between \$1.5 million and \$2 million.

If Spurrier decides to coach the Gamecocks, he would face his former team next season on Nov. 12, when Florida comes to Williams-Brice Stadium.



South Carolina coach Lou Holtz, 67, has said during this season that he has felt worn down.

An announcement regarding Spurrier, who won a national championship at Florida, is expected next week, the newspaper said, citing an anonymous source close to the situation.

South Carolina athletic director Mike McGee wouldn't confirm or deny the reports. Several calls to Spurrier's agent, Jimmy Sexton, were not returned.

Holtz wanted the Gamecocks (6-4) concentrating on the Tigers (5-5). A victory Saturday would give the school its first seven-win season since 2001 and probably earn a bowl upgrade. A defeat would be South Carolina's fifth in six years of the series since Holtz

arrived. And it would be another slip after last year's 63-17 loss that Holtz said left him as embarrassed as ever.

South Carolina quarterback Syvelle Newton could tell Holtz was especially intense this week and not necessarily because he's leaving.

"We don't worry about any of that," Newton said. "We love Coach Holtz and whatever he does, that's for after the season. We're only thinking about Clemson."

Holtz has said that the atmosphere surrounding the South Carolina-Clemson game at Death Valley reminded him of his last game at Notre Dame.

"Not that I'm saying this is my last game," Holtz said. "The decision was already made and Bob Davis was going to replace me. We're a terrible week to make it. We were 8-2 and had a young football team and we were playing Southern Cal."

"We played probably the worst football game I've ever had a football team play, yet we were up by eight points and missed an extra point. With about a minute-and-a-half to go, USC came and went for two and tied the game and we lost in overtime. We had five turnovers and all kinds of penalties."

Holtz had opened the door for talk of his future. He said several times that he's worn out and tired



Steve Spurrier, 12-20 in two NFL seasons, has the highest winning percentage in SEC history.

from the season. Holtz went through a troubling off-season in which he let four long-time assistants and took the offense away from his son, Skip. Holtz then went to work on a project he called "changing the culture" at South Carolina. He taught weekly sessions with his players on being good teammates, accountability and citizenship.

While Holtz hasn't delivered on the Southeastern Conference and national titles he spoke of during his welcome news conference in December 1998, he's the only coach in Gamecocks history with two bowl victories.

Holtz thinks the team's talent

level is up, along with discipline, commitment and academics. He feels the program is in much better shape than a year ago, when the blowout loss to Clemson knocked South Carolina out of a bowl bid.

"I still say there's a lot of solid things," Holtz said. "We'll find out Saturday."

Spurrier and Holtz are friends. Spurrier helped Holtz's wife, Beth, obtain an appointment with Florida's NCAA faculty adviser Dr. Nicholas Cassisi for treatment for throat cancer. When Beth Holtz was in the university's surgical center, Spurrier's wife, Jerr, checked on her several times to see what she needed.

"He didn't have to do any of that," Holtz said in 1999. "He's got a million other things on his mind. I was out coaching."

Spurrier, 59, went 20-13-1 in three seasons at Duke before taking over at Florida, his alma mater, in 1990. The Gators won six Southeastern Conference championships and the 1996 national title under Spurrier. He posted 122 victories over 12 seasons, outmatched opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

Spurrier abruptly left after the 2001 season, taking over for the Washington Redskins. He resigned after two seasons with a 12-20 record.

Shelled: Rout enrages Terps coach

SHELLED, FROM BACK PAGE

Randall said the easy victory was a welcome change.

"I'll take a victory like this any day," he said. "We got the momentum early, it stayed with us and they were on their heels the whole game."

It was a loss that didn't sit well with Maryland coach Ralph Friedgen, who has guided the Terps to bowl games in each of his first three seasons.

"Obviously, I'm not reaching these kids," an angry Friedgen said. "I just have to sit back and re-evaluate everything. I can tell you what — I won't see me around here a whole long time if we do this was a waste. It. They won't have to find me. I'll quit."

Tailback Mike Imoh scored both early touchdowns — one on a fourth-down 1-yard drive then left with a strained left hamstring. But it hardly mattered. Jimmy Williams returned an interception 34 yards for a touchdown. Justin Hanne scored on a 5-yard run and the Hokies cruised.

Things never got better for the Terrapins (4-6, 2-5), who used three quarterbacks had five turnovers and managed two field goals.



Virginia Tech tailback Mike Imoh (20) gets past Maryland's David Holloway to score a touchdown.

The trouble started right away for the Terps and sophomore quarterback Joel Statham, whose third pass was intercepted by James Griffin and returned 11 yards to the Maryland 29. Five runs by Imoh made it 7-0.

After a false start to begin the next series, Statham connected with Derrick Fennor, who was quickly stripped of the ball by James Anderson, and Mikal Baqee recovered for the Hokies at the 17.

Three plays later, Imoh ran it in from the 6, hurt his hamstring and watched the rest of the rout. Randall threw touchdown passes of 35 yards to Jeff King and 15 yards to Jared Mazzetta, and Brandon Pace added field goals of 27 and 34 yards.

See summary on Page 24.

Michigan's offense operates on Hart

By LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Some athletes thrive off the energy their fans provide during home games.

Michigan's offense, says Michigan's running back knows he'll be the enemy Saturday at Ohio State — yet he's looking forward to the experience.

"I love being booed. To me, there's nothing better than that," Hart said. "I'd rather get booed. It gives me a lot more incentive."

Listed at 5 feet 9 and 194 pounds — though he might not be that tall or heavy — Hart is used to being doubted, jeered and taunted.

"I just like going into situations that are against you," he said. "It's probably because of my little size."

If Hart can do what he's done for much of the year for No. 7 Michigan, the Buckeyes' rowdy fans might be silenced.

The freshman averages a Big Ten-best 131.1 yards rushing per game — ninth-best in the country — despite carrying the ball just eight times in the first two games and not starting until the fifth game of the season.

Hart leads the conference with 150.7 yards per game. "He came in and surprised a lot of people," Ohio State linebacker A.J. Hawk said. "He's a great run-



Game time is Central European.

ning back. He's not a huge guy, but he breaks a lot of tackles."

"It's a pretty big challenge to stop a guy like that because if a couple of defensive guys are out of place, he'll find the mistake and hit the crease and make you pay."

Hart's 1,311 yards rank 13th in Michigan history for a season rushing total. If he matches his average Saturday, he'll move into seventh place.

He ran for 151 yards in Michigan's 42-20 victory over Northwestern last week for his school-record fifth straight 150-yard game.

Against the Wildcats, he moved past Ohio State's Maurice Carter (1,237 yards) into third place for his school-record fifth straight 150-yard game.

Hawk compared Hart to Clark.

"Both can see the hole and know when to cut it back," Hawk said.

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr knew he would have to replace Chris Perry, now an NFL rookie in Cincinnati, but he wasn't sure the recruit from upstate New York could handle the task.

"This is a guy that came out of a very small high school, and a lot of people questioned whether his competition was strong enough," Carr said. "I can't say to you that I thought he would be leading the Big Ten in rushing this late in the season, because I didn't. But I didn't have any question that he was the kind of kid that was going to be successful here."

Hart has piled up impressive statistics without the benefit of 50- or 70-yard runs.

His 34-yard TD last week was his longest run for Michigan, and it was similar to many of his 33 gains of at least 10 yards. He started out the game, but he was bouncing to a hole to the right.

"He has the ability to make the play when the play isn't there," tight end Tim Massaquoi said. "Certain things have to be seen — something that everybody else doesn't."

Hart has been low key despite the national publicity.

"I respect him a lot," senior defensive end Patrick Massey said. "He is leveled, and his ego hasn't gotten out of hand."

NFL's top runner passes praise along

Alexander credits Seahawks' offensive line for success

By TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Shaun Alexander has always had a knack for getting into the end zone. Lately, Seattle's offensive line has been making it easy for the Seahawks running back to find the open lanes and open field, too.

"Our line's on fire," Alexander said. "They are the best in the NFL, and they're playing like I. They're showing everyone. I just get the honor of running behind them. I'm just trying to match their intensity every game."

After running for 176 yards in last week's loss at St. Louis, Alexander is the NFL's leading rusher with 1,655 yards. He has posted three consecutive 100-yard games and is averaging 117.2 yards per game.

"We've been gaining a lot of yards," coach Mike Holmgren said.

"Shaun has been doing a nice job of running."

It didn't happen by accident.

Seattle's running game has been in a groove over the past three years — since Holmgren said he wanted to simplify things for quarterback Matt Hasselbeck and "force-feed" the ball to Alexander.

"As a lineman, you always feel you can do a little more," guard Steve Hutchinson said. "I think we took it as a little bit of a call-out. Maybe we weren't doing a good enough job."

Alexander — a free agent after this season — gained 195 yards rushing and ran for a touchdown in a win over Carolina on Oct. 31, then went for 160 yards with two TDs when Seattle (5-3) won the next game at San Francisco.

"We tried to step up our game a little," Hutchinson said.

"Shaun runs hard all the time. I think we just got on the same

page a little better. We got our blocks in sync with where he's looking to hit it."

On paper, it looks like another good weekend for Alexander. The injury-ravaged Miami Dolphins (1-8) are the second-worst defense in the NFL against the run. They have allowed an average 145.6 yards rushing per game.

"Shaun is so patient," Dolphins linebacker Zach Thomas said.

"He waits for blocks to happen instead of just going downhill and hitting the hole. He does a great job with patience. We've just got to have guys fill the gaps."

Alexander, whose 12 TDs rank second in the NFL, said he never looks at the statistics. Instead, he studies film and considers matchups between his teammates and the opponents they'll line up against.

Even without injured linebacker Junior Seau and tackle Tim Bowens, who both are out for the season, Alexander believes the Dolphins are talented on defense.



Seattle Seahawks RB Shaun Alexander (37) took the NFL rushing lead with 176 yards in a loss to St. Louis last Sunday.

"They just haven't played fully together against the run, and that's really dangerous," he said. "Next thing you know, they get hot. Who knows how good their defense could be?"

QB Brunell: Benching not end of career

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Mark Brunell is 34 years old, has the worst stats in the league and has lost his job to a younger player two years in a row.

Is retirement on the table?

"No, I don't think so," the Washington Redskins quarterback said. "I feel real good about how I can play. I haven't worked out these first nine games, of course. But I still have a lot of confidence."

He has to draw deep within himself to find it. Brunell's 63.9 quarterback rating ranks last in

the NFL, a far cry from his 85.2 rating that ranked 11th in NFL history at the start of the season.

Last year, he was made expendable in Jacksonville by the arrival of Byron Leftwich. This year, he has been replaced by Patrick Ramsey.

Ramsey's games have made for difficult viewing. He has shown no consistent ability to complete passes downfield, and even his short throws to wide open receivers

are missing the mark. Yet, Brunell and the coaching staff insist the 11-year veteran has more snaps to play before he's done.

"I've had a lot of success in this league," Brunell said.

"And the body feels good. It's always one week at a time, one season at a time, but right now, I'm the backup. That's my role, and I will have a good attitude and keep working hard and where I'm going."

Brunell's demotion is an embarrassment for coach Joe Gibbs, who invested more emotion and energy into recruiting Brunell than any other offseason signing. Gibbs flew to Florida to woo the quarterback, and they even went to the hospital together when Gibbs had a flare-up of his diabetes.

Brunell knew he was going to be cut by the Jaguars and had expressed a preference to stay in Florida, but Gibbs' courtship created a trade market for him that wouldn't otherwise have existed. Rather than waiting for Brunell to become a free agent, the Redskins gave Jacksonville a third-round draft pick and signed

NFL injury update
Injuries to prominent NFL players, following by team's prognosis:
Steelers: RB Duke Staley (sore hamstring) missed practice Thursday but is unlikely to play Sunday in Cincinnati.
Titans: QB Steve McNair (bruised chest) practiced Thursday but will be a game-time decision for Sunday's game at Jacksonville.
Buccanners: DT Anthony McFarland (right knee) is out for the season.
Panthers: QB Jake Delhomme (fractured right thumb) threw Thursday but is questionable for Sunday's game vs. Arizona.

Brunell to a seven-year, \$43 million contract with an \$8.6 million signing bonus.

Former All-Pro Luis Sharpe sentenced to prison

PHOENIX — Former Arizona Cardinals tackle Luis Sharpe, who pleaded guilty to possession of narcotics last month, was sentenced Thursday to 2½ years in state prison.

Sharpe, a former All-Pro who played with the Cardinals from 1982-94, was arrested in April by officers who reported seeing him buy drugs. Sharpe allegedly threw a large bag of cocaine out of his car as officers moved in.

Sharpe has had numerous run-ins with the law since 1995.

Steelers owner calls 'MNF' skit 'disgraceful'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pittsburgh Steelers owner Dan Rooney called a segment for the intro to "Monday Night Football" "disgraceful" and criticized ABC for "misérable" judgment.

The longtime owner, writing in an op-ed piece in Friday's New York Times, is the latest to weigh in on the skit that aired before Monday night's Dallas-Philadelphia game.

"The opening was out of place and should not have been part of the broadcast," Rooney wrote in the article titled "Out of Bounds."

ABC's intro showed actress Nicolelette Sheridan of the hit show "Desperate Housewives" wearing only a towel and provocatively asking Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens to skip the game for her as the two stood alone in a locker room. She drops the towel and jumps into Owens' arms.

"Worst was that it used one of our players in uniform in the locker room — who claimed that 'the team's going to have to win without me.' That is not NFL football," said Rooney, whose family has owned the Steelers since 1933.

The segment generated complaints to ABC and the Federal Communications Commission, as well as to NFL teams. "The NFL has NFL offices (and that's of those most other NFL teams), we were flooded with phone calls and e-mail messages protesting the video's salacious content," Rooney wrote. "Many of the fans said they were watching with their children and did not expect to see such material."

"The league headquarters acknowledged that the fans who contacted us were correct. ABC's judgment was miserable."

ABC, the Eagles and Owens apologized this week, with the team saying it wished the segment hadn't aired. The NFL called the intro "inappropriate and unsuitable for our 'Monday Night Football' audience."

The Ravens fans of the 31 other clubs that make up the league are a team," Rooney said. "We play as a team. This promotion simply did not belong in that context, and that's what sparked my reaction."



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OCONUS

Favre's mother falls ill on book tour

By ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Brett Favre's mother was hospitalized Thursday with stomach pains, interrupting her book tour.

Bonita Favre was taken to the emergency room after waking up with "a horrible stomach bug," said Zo Feigenbaum, the publisher of the book entitled "FAVRE."

Bonita Favre was admitted to the hospital, where she was rest-

ing comfortably after being given fluids and antibiotics, Feigenbaum said.

On Wednesday, Favre called that he was concerned about his mother during her book tour across Wisconsin.

"I told her, 'You're not a spring chicken anymore,'" the Green Bay Packers quarterback said. "She said, 'You sound like I sound, you've got some years back, talking to me.' I said, 'Well, if that's the case, then you won't listen to me

like I didn't listen to you, so we're even.' But I told her she's enjoying it. She's probably getting tired, but my mom, she enjoys being around people and what better way to be around people?"

The Favre family had a difficult year. The quarterback's father, Irv, died of a heart attack last December. Last month, his wife, Deanna, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Favre's 24-year-old brother was killed in an all-terrain vehicle accident on Favre's property in Mississippi.

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NASCAR gets its drama, but might lose hardcore fans

It's been a dozen years since the final race of the NASCAR season could promise this kind of suspense.

When the checkered flag drops Sunday with the Nextel Cup Chase championship on the line, three of the most popular drivers on the circuit are all within a few car lengths of current points leader Kurt Busch, and a fourth, sentimental favorite Mark Martin, could mathematically still pull off the upset.

So why are so many fans so upset with the playoff system that made it possible? We'll get to some of those reasons in a moment, but first the short answer: Junior won't win.

NASCAR's biggest star by far could zoom into the winner's circle at Homestead, Fla., but the only way Dale Earnhardt Jr. makes up the point differential on the guys ahead of him — Busch, Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon — is if all three get stuck in line at a car wash on the way to the track.

Racing luck being what it is, crashes, blown engines or some other misfortune could sideline one or maybe two of them. But Earnhardt knows the chances all three would have miserable days is way too much to expect, especially the way his luck has run at Homestead.

"The reality is, we didn't run good there last year," he said. "The test wasn't a 100 percent success. I don't live in a dream world. I know what the facts are."

Keep in mind that Earnhardt undercut his own chances in early October by including a curse word in his victory celebration just seconds after stepping out of his car at the fabled Talladega superspeedway. That little slip cost him \$10,000, and more important, 25 points in the Cup Chase.

Which brings up reason No. 2 why some fans have been slow to warm up to NASCAR's new playoff format: It smacks of manipulation.

Under the previous Cup system, the championship was a season-long affair that awarded consistency above all else. Drivers earned points depending on their finish in each of the 36 races, to-taled them up at the end, and the winner walked off with the title. Typical of the way things have gone for a while, last year's champion was Matt Kenseth, who won exactly one, ran about seventh a lot, and drove very carefully to protect his lead the rest of the time.

This year, with a new sponsor aboard and a desire to juice up the end of its TV schedule — when the races compete with NFL games and playoff baseball for ratings — NASCAR boss Brian France made a radical change. They totaled up the points after the first 26 races,



Jim Litke

made only the top 10 eligible for the Chase, reset the points between them so the spread was only 45 with 10 races left in the season.

Measured by TV ratings, the

changes didn't take with the fans, at least not right away. The first two races in the Chase lost viewers compared to a year earlier, but then spiked 21 percent at Atlanta three weeks ago. France predicts more of the same this weekend, and he's not the only one.

"It's going to be a heck of a shootout," Johnson said last weekend after winning the Southern 500, one of the wackiest races in a while. "NASCAR got what they wanted here."

NASCAR did. Still to be determined, though, is how much of the fan base feels the same way.

Some complained the playoff essentially wiped out the first two-thirds of the season, and made the final third almost irrelevant to all but 10 drivers. Some griped the points system punished one bad race too severely while the old system rewarded arguing that it didn't allow for enough separation.

To make matters worse, some sponsors have started grumbling that even when their driver has a good day, most of the airline is diverted to those drivers competing in the Chase.

France took it all in, then earlier this week tried to squash the debate by telling The Associated Press, "We always said we wanted to let the full year play out, but the balance we have now, we're really happy with. We may end up making some slight adjustments next season, but nothing very noticeable."

Just like the BCS guys who jacked college football's postseason, France is about to learn how tough it is to stage-manage drama in sports. And just like the BCS guys, he's going to need some luck to end his season without a few thousand suggestions jamming NASCAR's inbox.

An upset win by Junior would get him off the hook, and he's probably in the clear if either Gordon or Johnson — who's on a dazzling late-season charge — make up enough ground to claim the Cup. But if Busch hangs on in anything but a classic, France will be hearing plenty about how this season's championship, for all the new hoops he made drivers and fans jump through, was more trouble than it was worth.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org



NEXTel Cup contenders, from left, Kurt Busch, Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Mark Martin talk to the media Friday at the Homestead Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla., before the Ford 400.

Contenders focus on victory

Homestead win critical for each of five still chasing Cup

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Forget about strategy. The five drivers competing for the Nextel Cup championship have no choice other than to race for a victory.

With only 82 points separating leader Kurt Busch from fifth-place Mark Martin, with Jimmie Johnson, Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. in between, there are countless possibilities going into the season-ending Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Sunday.

But it all starts with a victory.

After stumbling at the start of NASCAR's new 10-man, 10-race playoff-style championship, Johnson has charged back into contention with four wins in the past five races.

Just 18 points back, he can claim the championship by winning Sunday and leading the most laps if Busch finishes second without leading any.

"There's a lot of pressure that I feel the 97 team is under," Johnson said of Busch. "We've been in that position through our season and we've had bad luck with that pressure on our shoulders."

"I like the position that both Hendrick cars are in. We're very close to Kurt in points. We just

have to go out, be aggressive, race hard. That's what both teams are very good at."

Gordon is 21 points behind Busch under a scoring system that gives the race winner 10 points more than the runner-up. Any driver leading a lap gets five bonus points and the driver leading the most laps gets five more.

A second-place finish by Busch would prevent Gordon from winning his fifth NASCAR title.

"I think it's nerve-racking and intense no matter where you're at," Gordon said. "You've got to go out there and run hard."

Gordon figures Busch is definitely in the best position, though.

"The closest thing that I have to compare to this would be when Mark Martin, Dale Jarrett and myself were going for the championship in '97," said Gordon, who wound up beating Jarrett for the title by 14 points that year.

"I had the points lead by a small margin, and it was a good position to be in because it was our championship to lose, and we knew that," he said. "Those other guys really had to be on the huge offense."

"If I had my choice, I'd want to be in Kurt's position, but I do like the fact we get to go out there and go for broke. We know we have to lead laps and win the race."

Busch appeared well on the way to the championship before

an engine failure slowed his momentum at Atlanta and let the other contenders back into the fray. Since then, he has finished 10th at Phoenix and a struggling sixth last Sunday at Darlington.

But if Busch wins Sunday or finishes second and leads a lap, he will get his first Cup title no matter what the other drivers do.

"We need to go out and attack the racetrack this weekend, to lead laps and to make sure that we do our job at the end of the race," Busch said.

The job is tougher for Earnhardt and Martin, who trail Busch by 72 and 82 points, respectively. They need to substantially outpace the others.

"We dug ourselves a pretty big hole at Darlington," said Earnhardt, who finished 11th last Sunday after pitting late in the race for a battery change. "It will be difficult to climb out and still win this championship. We're going to have to be the best team at Homestead as well as the luckiest."

Martin, a four-time series runner-up, would need even more good fortune than Earnhardt.

"We're going to go to Homestead and race for a win," said Martin, who finished second at Darlington to remain viable in the Chase. "I don't really think all of those other guys are going to have a bad race, but we can't control that. We can only control what we're doing on the track and try to get the best finish we can."

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Buzzer-beater lifts Knicks over Rockets

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jamal Crawford had been practicing crazy shots over and over again recently, preparing himself for the opportunity to make a game-winning basket.

When a chance to put his practice to use arose Thursday night, Crawford stuck his head in the huddle and asked New York Knicks coach Lenny Wilkens for the final shot.

"I honestly practice those kinds of shots all the time," Crawford said. "I felt comfortable. I told coach I could knock it down." Crawford proved to be prophetic, banking in a three-pointer at the buzzer to send the Knicks to their first road victory of the season, 93-92 over the reeling Houston Rockets.

Crawford finished with 19 points, going 5-for-11 from the three-point arc, and Kurt Thomas added 23 points and 14 rebounds to hand the Rockets their fourth loss in five games.

New York, which ends a four-game trip against Dallas on Friday, came back from an 11-point deficit to start the fourth quarter, getting clutch baskets from Crawford, Thomas and Stephen Marbury down the stretch.

NBA roundup

"It was a big win for us, and it really helps our psyche," Wilkens said. "It really helps our mental approach. The guys know they can win one like this now."

The Knicks opened the quarter by scoring the first 11 points to tie it at 72, getting consecutive threes from Penny Hardaway.

Houston was ahead 92-88 with 41.4 seconds left after Maurice Taylor's basket.

But Thomas scored on a jumper with 26.8 seconds left, Houston's Tracy McGrady missed a running jump with 2.9 seconds left and the Knicks grabbed the rebound to set up the final shot.

After a timeout, Crawford came open to the right of the top of the key, took the inbound pass from Hardaway and banked in a three as time expired.

"I thought it was in all the way," Thomas said. "Whenever your teammate tells you he's going to hit it coming out of the huddle, you believe him. It was an unbelievable shot. But he said he was going to make it."

Spurs 88, 76ers 80: At Philadelphia, Tim Duncan scored a sea-



New York Knicks' Jamal Crawford (11) releases the game-winning shot as Houston Rockets' Jim Jackson (21) defends Thursday.

son-high 34 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead San Antonio to its fifth straight victory.

Allen Iverson scored 24, Kyle Korver had 17 and Corliss Williamson added 15 for the Sixers, who set a dubious team record by scoring just six points in the first quarter.

Cavaliers 106, Bobcats 89: LeBron James helped break the game open late in the second quarter by driving baseline for a windmill dunk, one of three crowd-pleasers among James' 19 points.

It was the fifth consecutive victory for the Cavaliers and moved them two games over .500 for the first time since 1999.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	1	4	.200	—
Philadelphia	1	4	.200	—
Toronto	1	4	.200	—
New York	1	4	.200	—
New Jersey	1	4	.200	—

Southeast Division

Miami	3	3	.667	—
Orlando	2	4	.333	1 1/2
Three-Ford	2	4	.333	1 1/2
Atlanta	2	4	.333	1 1/2
Charlotte	2	4	.333	1 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	2	3	.750	—
Cleveland	2	3	.625	1/2
Detroit	2	3	.625	1/2
Milwaukee	2	3	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	2	3	.500	1 1/2

Western Conference

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	1	4	.200	—
Dallas	1	4	.200	—
Houston	1	4	.200	—
Memphis	1	4	.200	—
New Orleans	1	4	.200	—

Northwest Division

Utah	2	3	.889	—
Portland	2	3	.667	1 1/2
Seattle	2	3	.667	1 1/2
Phoenix	2	3	.500	1 1/2
L.A. Lakers	2	3	.500	1 1/2
Sacramento	2	3	.500	1 1/2
Golden State	2	3	.500	1 1/2

Thursday's games

Cleveland 106, Charlotte 89	7:30
San Antonio 88, Philadelphia 80	7:30
New York 93, Houston 92	7:30
Friday's games	
Seattle at Toronto	
Utah at Miami	
San Antonio at Boston	
Indiana at Detroit	
New York at Dallas	
Charlotte at Denver	
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix	
Memphis at Sacramento	

Saturday's games

Houston at Cleveland	
Charlotte at Denver	
Orlando at Indiana	
Washington at New Jersey	
Minnesota at New Orleans	
Memphis at Golden State	

Thursday

Cavaliers 106, Bobcats 89	7:30
Cleveland — James 8-14 1-2 18, Goplen 3-6 2-4 8, Iguassua 5-9 6-9 15, Newble 5-6 1-2	

11, McInnis 6-10 4-18, Taylor 3-8 0-0 6-6, Harris 2-4 0-4, Snow 1-1 3-4 5, Williams 2-4 0-4, Scurlock 2-2 2-8, Brown 2-4 0-4, Wagnor 3-4 0-7 Totals 41-79 18-39 106.	
Charlotte — Wallace 6-2 3-6, Okafor 2-6 3-4 7, Brees 2-10 3-7 7, House 4-10 0-8 8, Knight 2-2 8, Ely 2-9 4-10 10, Bogans 5-12 3-4 14, White 0-2 3-3, Kappoo 0-1 4-4 16, Smith 1-2 2-8, Sampson 1-2 0-2 Totals 33-82 22-89.	

Cleveland 32 25 24 — 106	
Charlotte 25 24 19 25 — 89	
Three-Ford Goals — Cleveland 65 (McInnis 12, James 2, Brees 1, Wallace 1, Wagner 1,2), Charlotte 1-6 (Bogans 1-3, House 1-2, Wagnor 1-6) 0-0 0-2, Udrin 2-4 0-5, Henry 1-3 2-2, D.Brown 0-0 0-0 Totals 31-76 22-82 80.	

Philadelphia — Iguassua 2-8 1-2 6, K.Thomas 1-7 0-2 2, Jackson 2-1 4-4 8, Nelson 8-24 8-24, Green 0-3 2-2, Dalember 2-5 0-0 4, Korver 7-12 0-0 17, Williamson 6-11 3-4 15, Salmons 1-6 0-0 2, Davis 0-0 0-0 Totals 25-82 18-39.	
San Antonio 25 27 26 — 80	
Three-Ford Goals — San Antonio 1-3 (Grobil 2-4, Udrin 1-1, Bowen 1-3, Rose 0-1, Henry 0-1, Barry 0-1, Philbrick 1-3, Jones 1-2), Iguassua 1-1, Williamson 0-11, Foulet out of game. Rebounds — San Antonio 31 (Duncan 11), Philadelphia 28 (Iguassua 8), Assists — San Antonio 38 (Duncan 8), Philadelphia 16 (Iguassua 8), Total Fouls — San Antonio 22, Philadelphia 27, Technicals — Iguassua 1-1, Williams 0-0 0-0 Totals 25-82 18-39.	

Knicks 93, Rockets 92	
NEW YORK — K.Thomas 11-20 1-2 23, Thomas 1-3 0-2, Mohammed 4-11 4-12 15, Marbury 6-16 6-6 18, Crawford 7-18 0-0 19, Ariza 2-4 8-8, Hardaway 3-7 1-3 8, Morris 0-0 0-0, Sweetney 1-3 0-2, Williams 0-0 0-0 Totals 58-87 25-89.	
HOUSTON — Jackson 4-11 1-2 18, Taylor 3-6 1-2 9, Yao 5-8 2-5 21, Ward 0-0 0-0 0, McGrady 10-19 3-4 24, Autburo 2-5 0-0 4, Lee 1-2 0-2 15, Howard 3-8 0-2 8, Smith 1-2 0-2 0, Bowen 0-0 0-0 Totals 38-79 22-81.	

Three-Ford Goals — New York 27 (Crawford 10, Hardaway 2, Thomas 6, Marbury 6, McGrady 4, McGarity 1, Lue 1,2, Jackson 1-4, McGarity 1-4, Taylor 1-1, Ward 0-2), Fouled out — None. Rebounds — New York 30 (McGrady 17, Howard 15, Yao 11), Assists — New York 27 (Marbury 10, Houston 16, McGrady 4).	
Fouls — New York 17, Houston 17.	

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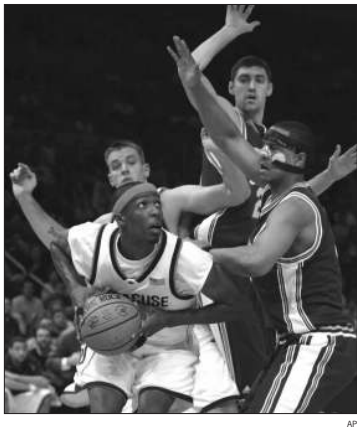
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No. 5 Syracuse recovers vs. Mississippi St.



Syracuse's Hakim Warrick, left, looks to shoot against Mississippi State's Lawrence Roberts, right and Wesley Morgan, center, Thursday.

Orange hold off Bulldogs in Coaches vs. Cancer semis

BY JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Syracuse and Mississippi State both struggled in the first half. Hakim Warrick made sure Syracuse had a much better final 20 minutes.

Warrick scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half and the fifth-ranked Orange beat No. 12 Mississippi State 71-58 Thursday night in the semifinals of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

"We got him the ball. We made a conscious effort to get him the ball," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said of the difference in the two halves. "We showed patience and got much better shots."

Syracuse (3-0) will play No. 24 Memphis on Friday night in the championship game at Madison Square Garden. The Tigers (3-0) beat Saint Mary's 81-66 in the other semifinal.

Syracuse and Mississippi State (2-1) were tied 25-25 at halftime. Syracuse had the better shooting half, hitting 29.4 percent to the Bulldogs' 26.5. The Orange were 1-for-8 from three-point range, Mississippi State was 1-for-9.

The matchup of preseason

All-Americans was even, too, and not very good. Warrick had four points on 2-for-5 shooting and Lawrence Roberts of the Bulldogs, playing for the first time this season, had two points and missed all five of his shots.

Warrick, a 6-foot-8 senior, had six points in Syracuse's 11-0 run to open the second half and the Orange stayed about that far in front the rest of the way.

"I think once we all got going it was really us," Warrick said. "That's what got me going."

Gerry McNamara missed his first six three-point attempts before hitting two around a dunk by Warrick on his alley-oop pass to give the Orange a 56-43 lead with 9:18 to play.

Warrick had 10 rebounds and McNamara finished with nine points and seven assists for the Orange, who went 21-for-51 from the field in the second half (67.7 percent).

"I thought we executed about as well as we could in the second half," Boeheim said. "What did we shoot? Sixty-seven percent. Yeah, that's good. We executed better, got good movement and better shot selection."

Roberts, the Southeastern Conference player of the year last season, missed the Bulldogs' opener because of an NCAA suspension over payment to an NBA pre-draft workout. He missed the second recovering from a broken nose in practice last week.

Playing with a face mask, Roberts finished with nine points and 12 rebounds. He was 2-for-9 from the field and never looked comfortable in his 28 minutes.

"We knew he would play we just didn't know how much," Mississippi State coach Rick Stansbury said of Roberts. "He hasn't practiced and we couldn't expect that much out of him but he still gets us 12 rebounds. It's his presence out there that helps the team. He missed some chippies he normally makes. Unfortunately for us he had to play that much tonight."

Shane Power had 18 points for Mississippi State, which shot 31.3 percent for the game (20-for-64). "It was that first 4.5 minutes of the second half. That was a big spurt," Stansbury said. "In the first half we did a good job on Warrick and McNamara. Then Warrick changed the emotion and energy level of their team and we didn't show a lot of poise."

No. 24 Memphis ends St. Mary's run

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rodney Carney took some time to answer John Calipari's question.

"Coach called me over the summer and asked me if I was working hard," Carney said. "I guess I showed him what I did all through the summer tonight."

The junior forward scored a career-high 33 points and Memphis ended the surprising tournament run of Saint Mary's with an 81-66 victory Thursday night in the semifinals of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

The 24th-ranked Tigers (3-0) will face No. 5 for the title on Friday night.

The 6-foot-7 Carney had 20 points in the first half as Memphis took a 42-29 lead. His three-pointer started a 10-0 run that broke a 17-all tie and he scored six points in a 9-0 run that gave the Tigers a 38-22 lead with 3:17 left in the half.

"He's put in a lot and all of a sudden on national TV he gets back a lot," Calipari said.

Saint Mary's (2-1), which beat California in the quarterfinals, was the lone mid-major in the field of 16 to reach the semifinals at Madison Square Garden, and the Gaels started as if another upset was possible.

Daniel Kickert scored 12 of their first 14 points in the opening four minutes, but Memphis used several defenders on him as Saint Mary's continued to run its spread offense. He finished the half with 15 points.

The Gaels punted to 64-56 on five straight points by Kickert with 7:18 to play. Carney and Jeremy Hunt then hit consecutive three-pointers to extend the lead to 14.

"We didn't leave him on pick and rolls in the second half," Calipari said of the defen-

sive job on Kickert. "They may miss a layup, but he isn't going to miss a three. He is a really good player."

Carney's previous career high was 26 points last season against South Carolina. He finished 13-for-20 from the field, including 3-for-3 on threes, and had nine rebounds.

He also impressed Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett.

"He looked like a pro tonight. Bennett said, 'We took it to the hole,'" Bennett said. "We played decent. We could have played better. Memphis had a lot to do with that. They are difficult to defend. The fact we didn't do a good job on Carney was the difference in the game. Other than that, I thought it was a close game."

"I was pleased. We did get something out of this game because of the level of competition that we are playing against."

Sean Banks, one of the most effective defenders against the 6-10 Kickert, added 18 points for Memphis, while freshman Joey Dorsey had 10 points and eight rebounds. The Tigers shot 50.8 percent from the field (32-for-63).

"We haven't even dug out our talent yet. We need to get the chemistry down," Carney said. "Once we get that down, in my opinion, we'll be unstoppable."

Kickert finished with 24 points and nine rebounds for Saint Mary's, which is playing at least the first seven games of the season without Paul Marigney, the leading scorer last season in the West Coast Athletic Conference, for academic reasons.

It was the third straight strong defensive outing for Memphis.

Saint Mary's shot 35.8 percent from the field (24-for-67), including 8-for-23 from three-point range.

"We relied a little bit too much on Sean and Rodney, but they had it going," Cal-

pri said. "They played well, they didn't go away. They could have easily have hit some 3s to beat us."

No. 2 Wake Forest 81, Virginia Commonwealth 67: Chris Paul scored 16 points despite taking just three shots from the field Thursday night to help Wake Forest win in the Preseason NIT.

Paul hit 14 of 15 free throws and had five assists for the Demon Deacons (2-0), who head to New York for next week's semifinal matchup with Providence.

Justin Gray added 14 points and was one of five Wake Forest players in double figures.

Alexander Harper led the Rams (1-1) with 17 points.

The game was a rematch of last year's first-round NCAA tournament game, won by Wake Forest 79-78. In that game, the Rams were tied going into the final 90 seconds before Paul made several plays to help the Demon Deacons survive.

This time, Wake Forest used an 18-0 first-half run to go ahead to stay — though it had to fight off several Rams runs and its own inconsistency.

No. 10 Arizona 83, Wright St. 66: At Tucson, Ariz., Salim Stoudamire scored 24 points, including 6-for-9 shooting on three-pointers, and Arizona beat Wright State in the second round of the Preseason NIT.

The Wildcats (2-0) play Michigan in the semifinals next Wednesday in New York.

Channing Frye had 13 points and Hassan Adams 10 for Arizona.

Isaiah Fox, suspended from Tuesday's opener for violating team rules, had 10 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

Zakee Boyd scored a career-high 24 points for the Raiders (1-1).



Junior forward Rodney Carney (10) scored a career-high 33 points as Memphis defeated St. Mary's 81-66 in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic semifinals on Thursday.

No. 19 N.C. State 71, Elon 45: At Raleigh, N.C., Julius Hodge scored 21 points on his 21st career triple-double in an exclusive game of Atlantic Coast Conference plays, leading North Carolina State past Elon in the semifinals of the BCA Invitational. The Wolfpack (2-0) advanced to play East Carolina for the championship.

Hodge now has 1,505 points and 303 assists in his career, becoming the 18th player in the 52-year history of the ACC to record at least 1,500 points, 500 rebounds and 300 assists. Anthony Grundy is the only other N.C. State player to reach those totals.

Teammate Iliyan Evtimov added 10 points. Matt Nowlin had 16 points for Elon (1-1), which shot 38 percent.

Baseball owners delay vote on Expos' move to D.C.

Commissioner Selig blames 'housekeeping' issues; says team still will relocate

By NANCY ARMOUR
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Baseball wasn't exactly quick to find the Montreal Expos a new home, and that's not about to change now.

Expected to rubber-stamp the Expos' proposed move to Washington, Major League Baseball owners instead made the surprise decision Thursday to table the vote. Commissioner Bud Selig blamed internal "housekeeping" issues, and said the move will still take place, with a vote by owners coming before Dec. 6.

"We will get this done," Selig said. "We just weren't quite ready with a lot of details. We like to have all the details done before we vote. Nothing more than that."

Good thing, because the Expos' movers are already unpacking in Washington. Sessions went on last Thursday morning, and the team announced that manager Frank Robinson agreed to a one-year contract extension through next season.

Baseball officials also said they plan to announce by Friday when the franchise will be renamed.

"We didn't consider any contingencies, we didn't consider any other options," said Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer.



MLB Commissioner Bud Selig said the owners will vote on the proposed move of the Montreal Expos to Washington by Dec. 6.

"We fully expect to play in RFK (Stadium) next year, and we're planning on it."

The Expos' agreement with Washington calls for funding for the new stadium to be in place by Dec. 31. The District of Columbia government has delayed approval of funding for a new stadium, but Selig and DuPuy said that wasn't the reason for the delay Thursday.

"The mayor believes he has the votes to pass, and we expect that to happen," DuPuy said.

Plans are to build the ballpark along the Anacostia River, about a dozen blocks south of the U.S. Capitol, and begin play there in 2008. The agreement estimates the cost of refurbishing RFK Stadium, land acquisition and ballpark construction at \$435 million. The money would come from a new tax on the city's largest businesses, a tax on baseball-related income and lease payments by the team's new owners.

But some D.C. council members have claimed costs would be far higher, perhaps \$600 million or more. District of Columbia Council Chair Linda Cropp postponed a Nov. 9 vote on the deal, saying the District should spend two weeks seeking private financing.

The council now has a vote scheduled for Nov. 30. The council must vote on the package a second time, as well, and that vote could come Dec. 14.

"Baseball is watching what is taking place here in the District, and if I were them, I wouldn't vote either," said Councilman Jack Evans, chair of the council's Finance and Revenue Committee.

"I've said all along that if the district fails to act, baseball will go elsewhere," Evans added. "Their action, by delaying their vote, only reinforces the fact that if we fail to act, baseball will go somewhere else."

That's not likely — not with so much already invested in moving the team to Washington. When asked if he could see anything that would keep the team from playing in Washington next year, Selig replied, "I do not."

Selig declined to describe exactly what he did the vote, but one could be baseball's negotiations with Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos.

Angelos had previously objected to having a team move just 40 miles from his Camden Yards stadium, but gave his blessing in September after reaching an understanding with baseball that protected him financially.

A baseball official, speaking on condition of anonymity, has said previously that an appraiser would value the Orioles franchise and the commissioner's office would guarantee its value for a period of time. The commissioner's office also would guarantee Baltimore's locally generated revenue for a period of time and assist in the creation of a regional sports

network.

"That wasn't the real reason, but certainly I would hope that everything is completed before we vote so we can move on," Selig said of negotiations with Angelos. "There's a lot of work to do."

Baseball owners did not vote on the \$223 million sale of the Milwaukee Brewers from Selig's family to Mark Attanasio because the commissioner's office has not finished processing the transaction.

But Attanasio met with the ownership committee as well as members of the executive council, and Selig said he expected a vote soon, probably by conference call.

"They are proceeding expeditiously," Selig said.

"Hopefully we'll be able to bring that to conclusion in the very near future."

Selig didn't give a timetable on when owners might vote on the proposed appointment of Jeff Moorad as chief executive officer of the Arizona Diamondbacks. Moorad, a high-profile agent, was picked by the team's controlling investors in August to replace founding CEO Jerry Colangelo, but cannot take over until other baseball owners approve.

Woods' fortunes rising in Dunlop Phoenix event

The Associated Press

MİYAZAKI, Japan — Tiger Woods held a three-stroke lead halfway through the Dunlop Phoenix, hoping to end a drought that has left him without a title since February.

Woods shot a 3-and-67 Friday that gave him a score of 8-under 132 after two rounds in the \$1.89 million event, the richest on the Japanese tour. Kanamori, Tokyo of Japan also shot a 67 for 135.

Christian Pena of the United States had the day's best round at 63 and was at 136.

"Things are starting to come together," Woods said. "For the past three or four months I've been a little more at ease making shots, and consequently the scores are getting better."

Woods, winner of eight major titles, lost his No. 1 ranking to Vijay Singh two months ago. His lone victory this year came in the Matsushita Cup Championship in late February.

The last time he won a stroke-play tournament was October 2003. Woods finished eighth in this event two years ago and is seeking his first victory in Japan.

Woods also renewed his criticism of the PGA of America for its decision to pass over friend Mark O'Meara as captain of the 2006 Ryder Cup team. Tom Lehman was chosen a few weeks ago. "It's not a good choice," Woods said. "But he would have been a good choice for America four years from now. Timing wise, I

Golf roundup

just thought that was Mark's only chance."

The next Ryder Cup matches are in Ireland, and Woods thought O'Meara should have been selected because of his Irish heritage.

Lehman was not concerned about Woods' comments.

"I don't want to cause any problems, this is not an issue," Lehman said after an opening-round 68 Thursday in the Callaway Golf Pebble Beach Invitational.

"Tiger and I get along just fine," said Lehman. "He's upset with the PGA of America that his buddy is not the captain. And when I see him I will say 'I understand.' I don't take it personally."

Defending champion Thomas Bjorn of Denmark shot a 69 and was at 4-over 144. British Open champion Todd Hamilton had a 76 and just made the cut.

England's Casey, Donald five strokes ahead in World Cup

SEVILLE, Spain — Englishman Paul Casey and Luke Donald surged to a five-stroke lead in the second round of the team World Cup on Friday after shooting an 8-under-par 64.

The pair has a total of 19-under 125. Austrians Martin Wiegand and Markus Brer carded a 70, with 11 half dozen teams six strokes behind the leaders: Sweden (65), Sweden (67), Spain



Tiger Woods, who has not won a stroke-play tournament in over a year, shot a 3-and-67 Friday to maintain a three-stroke lead in the Dunlop Phoenix tournament in Miyazaki, southern Japan.

(68), Japan (69), Ireland (71) and the United States (67).

Scott Verplank and Bob Tway are competing for the Americans.

Sorenstam on top of her game and in the lead in AT&T

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Annika Sorenstam birdied four of the last five holes Thursday, twice with a 7-iron into greens surrounded by trouble, giving her a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead after the first round of the season-ending AT&T Championship.

Cristie Kerr had a 67, and Karrie Webb was among those at 68.

Three share lead in Pebble Beach Invitational

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Two-time PGA Tour winner Olafie Brown, Kelli Kuehne of the LPGA and two-time collegiate champion JJ Jakovack shot 6-under 66s Thursday to share the lead after the first round of the Pebble Beach Invitational.

No NHL Draft until new labor agreement reached

The Associated Press

TORONTO — There won't be an NHL entry draft before a collective bargaining agreement is reached with the players' association, the director of the league's scouting department said.

The lockout has already wiped out over 240 games, plus the All-Star weekend, and it appears there won't be any NHL hockey before January — if at all this season. The sides haven't met since Sept. 9 and no negotiations have been resumed.

If the season goes by the books, next June's draft — scheduled to be held in Ottawa — would be the next major event to be held. The draft can't be held until the lockout is over.

Ohio fires football coach after four seasons

ATHENS, Ohio — Ohio coach Brian Knorr was fired Thursday after leading the Bobcats to an 11-35 record in four seasons.

Ohio had a 4-7 mark this season. The Bobcats opened the season 3-2, including a victory at Kentucky, but then dropped five of their last six games. Ohio went 2-10 in 2003.

Activist charged with blackmailing Sheffield in jail

BLACKMOUNT — A federal judge refused to dismiss charges Thursday against a self-styled community activist accused of attempting to blackmail New York Yan-

Sports briefs

kees slugger Gary Sheffield and his wife with a purported sex videotape.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Morton Denlow brushed aside Derrick Mosley's claim that he just wanted to provide moral counseling to Sheffield's wife, gospel singer De-Leon Richards.

"There is probable cause to believe that this whole issue of counseling and that you were intending to counsel that person was a fraud," the judge said.

During the hearing, federal prosecutors played a secretly made tape of Mosley, 38, telling Sheffield's Chicago-based business agent that he had done "a noble thing" in not trying to sell the videotape on the open market.

The business agent, Rufus Williams, has said Mosley told him that the videotape was sent to him anonymously and that it showed Richards having sex with a professional musician.

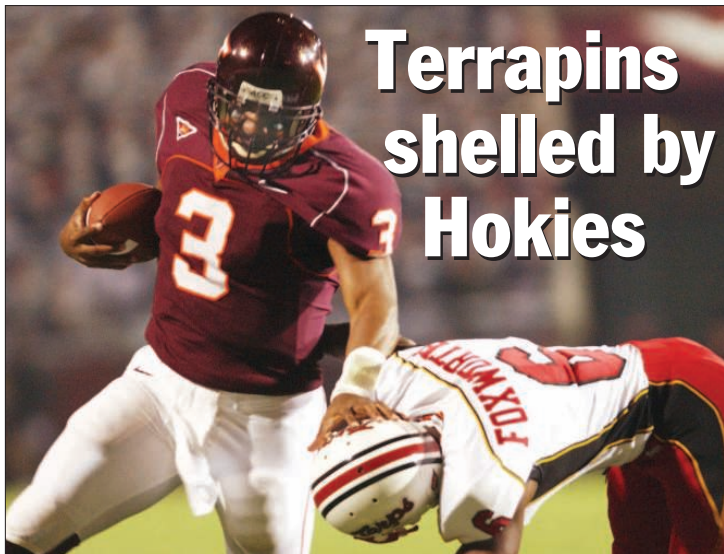
Williams contacted the FBI after Mosley first contacted him on Nov. 3. He later secretly taped a phone conversation with Mosley in which he expressed hope that the tape would be destroyed and offered to pay Mosley \$1,000 for his efforts. Mosley is heard on tape saying: "I think we just gotta go a little higher."

For the first time, prosecutors said Thursday that the government doesn't know whether the videotape actually exists.

SPORTS



Seattle's Alexander, the NFL rushing leader, deflects praise, Page 27



Terrapins shelled by Hokies

Virginia Tech quarterback Bryan Randall (3) shed the attempted tackle of Maryland's Dominique Foxworth (6) during the Hokies' 55-6 victory Thursday in Blacksburg, Va. Virginia Tech will win the ACC title with victories over Virginia and Miami in its final two regular-season games.

Va. Tech rolls on the day Beamer's mother dies

By HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Frank Beamer's mother would have been proud.

On the day she died, Beamer and Virginia Tech moved one step closer to a Bowl Championship Series berth Thursday night by routing Maryland 55-6.

"I had my mind in the game. That's what my mom taught me," Beamer said, dispelling the idea that his sadness and loss hampered his focus.

Besides, he added, she'd sent word that he was to coach.

"We weren't sure she was going to make it through the night before the North Carolina game, and I went by to see her in the hospital," Beamer said, recalling the No. 15 Hokies' game in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Nov. 6.

"Then when I left, she told my brother and sisters that if anything happened to her, to make sure to tell me to coach in that North Carolina game and to win the ballgame. That kind of tells you about my mom."

Herna Beamer, 86, had suffered from heart problems and died in her sleep overnight at her home in Fancy Gap.

"Really, it's a blessing that she died peacefully," Beamer said.



Virginia Tech linebacker Arron Rouse (36) stops Maryland tailback Mario Morris (8). The Terrapins (4-5) committed five turnovers, rushed for just 56 yards and will not play in a bowl game for the first time in three years.

The coach's loss was felt by the whole team, quarterback Bryan Randall said, and motivated them to win for Beamer and his mom, and to stay in control of their drive to win the ACC by winning their last three games.

"It was special for him to be out here coaching us in a time like this," Randall said after running for one touchdown and throwing for two. "We just wanted to make it special for him and get him a win."

They wasted no time, turning two turnovers into short touchdown drives in the first four minutes, leading 41-3 at halftime and not letting up.

"I appreciate their efforts," Beamer said. "They presented me and my mom with a game ball back there. I feel good about what they did tonight."

The victory was the sixth in a row for Virginia Tech (8-2, 5-1), which can win the ACC by beating No. 18 Virginia next weekend and No. 12 Miami, its rival from the Big East, in the Orange Bowl on Dec. 4.

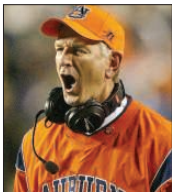
After a season full of games that went down to the final quarter, the Hokies used a vintage display of playmaking defense and opportunistic offense to make this one easy. They gained just 376 yards, but outruled the Terps 239-56 and held them to 197 yards overall.

SEE SHELLED ON PAGE 26



South Carolina's Holtz to step down after season and Spurrier appears poised to replace him

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For some, there's more than usual at stake in college football's rivalry weekend

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Second-half surge leads fifth-ranked Syracuse over No. 12 Miss. St.

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Last race packed with possibilities for Nextel Cup pursuers Page 28